## IMES

No. 65,767

cas, remory

AND PHONES

11.4.3

SATURDAY DECEMBER 21 1996

THE BIG TEASE Joe Joseph's end of year Quiz

TODAY IN ON THE ACT

**Paul Heiney** on how animals stole the nativity show WEEKEND



EVITA AND ME Eva Peron

Simon Jenkins on why he loves PAGE 16

Your Christmas AND NEW YEAR TELEVISION AND BADEO GUIDE

MONDAY THE TIMES FOR ONLY EVERY MONDAY

PLUS- CAR 96, OUR AWARD WINNING WEEKEND MONEY SECTION AND 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS

Fiancé stabbed 37 times, court told

## Bail appeal in road rage murder case

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

A JUDGE will be asked on Monday to free Tracie Anthe former model charged with the murder of

Miss Andrews was granted conditional bail yesterday by magistrates who were told that she stabbed Lee Harvey 37 times and then lied that he had been the victim of a "road rage" attack.

Details of the case against Miss Andrews, who was remanded in custody pending the outcome of a prosecution challenge to the decision to grant bail, emerged after her solicitor took the highly un-usual step of asking for report-

ing restrictions to be lifted. Tim Robinson claimed the case against his client was weak and tenuous". - Miss Andrews sat pale throughout the three hour hearing during which it was said she had threatened a previous boyfriend and Mr Harvey with knives, and had hit her firmore with a bottle and punched him in the face.

Magistrates originally agreed that Miss Andrews should be allowed bail so that she could be at home for Christmas with her six-year-old daughter. But the prosecution argued Miss Andrews might try to commit suicide, as she had done days after giving a tearful televised press conference of her graphic account of what she still maintains was a racially motivated road rage

Since taking a drug over-dose, she had been in a secure psychiatric hospital, but her solicitor said she now deeply regretted the suicide attempt and was intent only in clear-

While she was taken to Eastwood Park Womens Prison in Gloucester for the weekend Mr Robinson attacked police attempts to find wit-



Tracie Andrews: "had turbulent relationship



Lee Harvey: "they had an argument

nesses as "sub-standard" and said her drug overdose should not be seen "as an act of guilt". He conceded the couple had a turbulent relationship, but said: "He is the last person in the world that she would have

deliberately killed." Mr Robinson said he had agreed to lift the normally strict reporting procedures in the hope the publicity might "lead to someone coming for-

ward to identify the real killers". The prosecution portrayed Miss Andrews's press conference as a deliberate fiction and said how, after a row in the car during which Mr Harvey hit

her, Miss Andrews stabbed him in the neck, face, back, head and upper body. Two main arteries were severed in

the attack, said police.

Miss Andrews, who works as a barmaid in the Worcestershire village of Alevchurch, where the couple lived, was found standing over the body covered in blood.

Yesterday she spoke only once to confirm her name and address. She heard Kerry Moreton, for the prosecution, describe how just before Hpm on December 1, police found Mr Harvey's body in the road at Coopers Hill, which is a short distance from the couple's home.

A visitor to a nearby cottage found Miss Andrews with cuts and bruises to her face. But no witnesses have come forward to say they saw the Ford Sierra car Miss Andrews claims was the murder.

Miss Moreton said: "The reason she is charged with murder is that there is sufficient evidence in the view of the police and the prosecution to contradict her explanation and say she was the murderer and not someone in a Sierra.

A clump of hair, which matched Miss Andrews's own, had been found close to her fiance's hand and three or four similar hairs were discovered in his fist.

Miss Moreton said: They had an argument. Mr Harvey may have struck Miss Andrews, but she then pulled a knife on him."

The couple had a domestic row earlier about Mr Harvey's daughter and witnesses in a pub spoke of the couple arguing that evening.

Miss Moreton said Miss
Andrews had told police how

the black woollen hat they found in their Escort car was a Continued on page 2, col 5



Emma Gifford leaving home yesterday morning for the Central Criminal Court

## Baby killer gets probation

THE daughter of a retired chief executive of the Rank Organisation who killed her newborn son after giving birth. alone and in secret in her Kensington flat was put on probation yesterday after pleading guilty to infanticide. "In a situation such as this

the law does not wish to punish, "Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, told Emma Gifford, 22. The law wished to help because help was still required.

The circumstances of this birth could not have been more lonely for you and what occurred immediately after-

wards, although it must cause you great remorse, is not something which should be allowed to cloud your life for

the whole of the future." William Boyce, for the prosecution, told the court how Gifford, from Ashford, Kent, admitted to police that she had given birth at between 2am and 3am last April 6 and had agonised over her future until 5pm the next day when she was expected at work. Mr Boyce said: "She felt as though she had no option. She didn't know what to do. So she placed a flannel, which she

had used to clean the child,

over his face." The court heard that Gifford had suffered from depression since the age of 13.

Rebecca Poulet, QC, for the dience, said: "Her mother is an alcoholic and as a result her childhood, adolescence and later teens were extremely disturbed. She was persistently abused and developed an obedient and pleasing personality to assuage trouble."
Gifford pleaded not guilty to

a second charge of trying to conceal the birth, and agreed to a course of treatment as a condition of her probation.

Hidden trauma, page 5

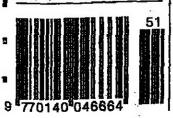
#### Snow forecast for the South

Snow flurries and a bitterly cold wind are forecast for high ground in the South. particularly the Cotswolds and Chilterns.

Much of the rest of the country will have an overcast day with rain or drizzle and sleet in places, although it will be brighter and drier in the North The London Weather Centre says the East Coast is the best bet for a white Christmas Page 20



The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



William W. Harrison

## James and Alice: names that put you ahead of the game

By ALAN HAMILTON AND ARTHUR SNELL

SORRY, Thomas and Charlotte, you are last year's people; you have been usurped by James and Alice. But don't throw your teddy bears out of your prams. blame your parents for being into aspirational naming. This year's favourite names

for the newborn are taken from a survey of nearly 4,000 birth announcements published in The Times during the past twelve months. James, runner-up last year, takes top place from Thomas, the male favourite since 1993. Farther down the chart, a new entry at No 8 is Harry, which has come from nowhere. Oliver and Charles have slipped, while Edward has

surged three places. Parents are constant in their choice of boys' names: James, Thomas, William and Alexander have been the four most popular choices throughout the 1990s, in one order or another. But the naming of girls is a more Among the ladies, Alice has

shot to the top from fifth position last year, while Char-lotte has tumbled from pole position to mere sixth place. Charjotte, last year's winner, jumped ten places to reach that position, only to fall again to sixth. Alice, this year's female winner, rose from fifth place, while Eleanor is down from sixth to thirteen, and Harriet and Katherine have emerged to

joint seventh place. If homophonic spellings were counted as one name, the picture would be quite different. Were the Hispanic Isabella - tenth this year combined with the less popu-

lar isobel, their joint effort would probably top the girls' list. Similarly, if Katherine joint seventh - were to join forces with the unplaced Catherine, they would make a much better showing. Catherine was third in 1994, disappeared last year and has now resurfaced with a K. Royal names have declined

in popularity over the past 30 years. In 1966, Charles, Andrew and Edward were all in the top ten as were Elizabeth, Anne and Margaret. Birth notices are yet

another indication that readers of The Times are ahead of the game. The names they choose do not reflect overail trends, but their choices tend to gain wider popularity a few years later. The most recent survey of babies' names taken from the NHS central register shows Jack and Jessica to be the currently most popular names for babies nationwide. In The Times list, Jack fell from tenth to eleventh this year, while poor Jessica languishes at twentietis.

## **Swimming officials** ban starting pistols

By CRAIG LORD

Dunblane massacre and the subsequent ban on handguns above 22 calibre.

Officials from the Amateur Swimming Federation of Great Britain decided that the use of starting pistols, which fire blanks, was "inappropriate", and they are to be gradually phased out in the next few months.

Races at the British championships in Sheffield this week were being started with a klaxon, but its raucous bark is considered inefficient compared with the crack of a starting pistol, and officials have begun the search for a suitable alternative.

David Sparkes, the federation's secretary, estimates that about 2,000 pistols are held by swimming clubs, adding: We're not saying they're necessarily dangerous, but in the current climate we ask whether children really need to see guns at the poolside. We think not. They are a potential

STARTING pistols are to be barred from swimming competitions in the wake of the in robberies and so on. We believe we are acting responsibly in drawing up a plan to phase out starting pistols."

Mr Sparkes said there was an opportunity for an inventor to come up with an alterna-tive. "What we need is a small hand-held device with a loud buzz, I should think that's well within the bounds of tech-Although the pistols cannot

fire a projectile, swimmers have been startled to see starters waving guns across the pool lanes as they threaten competitors with imminent disqualification.

There have been several cases of starters singeing their trousers when misfiring their

In the 1950s Eddie Woollard, a Hertfordshire official, accidentally fired a gun down his trouser leg. "It was very amusing to see the smoke rising from his pants," said Kelvin Juba, an official at this week's championships.

BUSINESS NEWS ..... 21-24 **WEEKEND MONEY..25-30** 

GARDENING: WEEKEND .... 4, 5 PROPERTY: WEEKEND... 6, 7 TRAVEL: WEEKEND ..... 13-18

## Cabinet picks troubleshooter as millennium chief resigns

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE minister charged with sorting out the beef crisis is the leading contender to take over organisation of the millennium exhibition which is threatening to turn into a similar

A Cabinet "troubleshooter" will be drafted in to oversee the £700 million event which was thrown into fresh confusion yesterday with the resignation of the executive in charge after just three months

in the job. Senior government figures indicated yesterday that Roger Freeman, the public service minister who was drafted in to coordinate the Government's response to the BSE crisis. would take over from Barry Hartop, chief executive of

Millennium Central. Mr Hartop said that his departure was in keeping with his three-month contract but senior figures at the Millennium Commission suggested that he had intended to extend his contract but had become disillusioned by the lack of progress on the scheme.

The Government has now decided to take control of bition, intended to be the highlight of the 2000 millennium celebrations.

Millennium Central, the private company charged with putting together a business plan for the project, is to become a public body with ministers preparing to underwrite the event to boost business confidence.

The private sector has guarinteed only one third of the E150 million expected in sponsorship and senior ministers are alarmed at suggestions that large companies are

backing away from the project at such an early stage. Michael Heseltine, the Dep

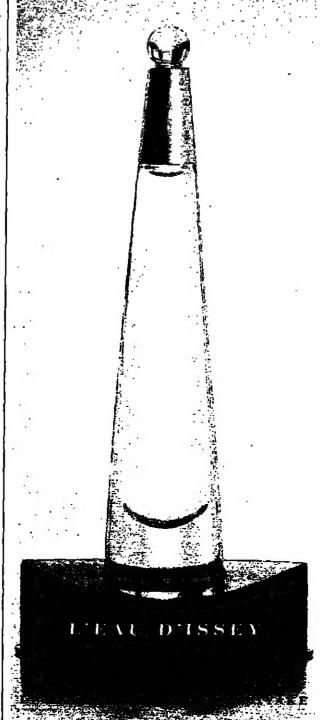
uty Prime Minister, is understood to have agreed that a Cabinet heavyweight is required to restore some credi-bility to the project. Mr Freeman is considered by colleagues to be the leading contender, having helped to defuse the beef row when it threatened to get out of con-

Government figures made clear yesterday that Millennium Central's new status as a quango, with the Government being the sole shareholder, would mean it would have to be overseen by a minister. It is considered that Virginia Bottomley, as National Heritage Secretary, would face a conflict of interest and Mr Heseltine will be increasingly engaged with Conservative campaigning in the run-up to

the general election. The exhibition, to be staged in Greenwich, south-east London, has prompted bitter argument between senior Labour and Tory figures, with Labour refusing to sanction a write the event from lotters money.

Mr Heseltine has made clear that a decision on funding the project must be made early in the new year. He has said that ministers will put an order to the Commons, extending beyond 2000 the per-iod that the Millennium Commission is allowed to receive lottery funding. The commission receives

about £250 million annually and Mr Heseltine has indicated that the Government might Continued on page 2, col 5



COURT & SOCIAL ......18

WEATHER \_\_\_\_\_\_20 OBITUARIES .....19 SIMON JENKINS .....16

## **HOME NEWS** NHEMNIMIES MONDAY 13 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT **SUPER SAVER** Simon Barnes on Peter Shifton's 1000th league game in goal **BAT OUT** Will England's cricketers make the running? **ASTON VILLA v** WIMBLEDON

## Major hopes attack on Labour will draw fire

JOHN MAJOR tried to put Conservative infighting over Europe behind him last night by turning his fire on the threat to the economy posed by Labour's European policies. The Prime Minister fought to shift attention from his party's internal troubles by delivering a scathing attack on Labour's threat to jobs, low taxation,

prosperity and export success. Seizing on this week's fall in unemployment and an independent report that forecast huge economic growth in Britain, Mr Major warned voters not to throw away the chance He used a keynote speech on the

economy to herald a new year campaign by ministers aimed at targeting the potential dangers of a Blair-led administration.

In a stark warning to those voters who considered it was "time for a change", he said that the general election result would determine the economic future of Britain.

Next year. Britain will go to the polls. People will have their democratic opportunity to decide if they wish to do away with the Government that has enabled British people to build their success or choose

a Labour instead the policies of those who have risk." He said Labour "could no more opposed all the ingredients of Britain's success."

Tory strategists are building a campaign intended to expose Labour's twin weaknesses of the economy and Europe. The attack on Labour's economic background is timed to undermine the announcement, expected early next year, of Gordon Brown's tax plans.

Mr Major told the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce: "I know what some might say: 'Isn't it time for a change? Well, as long as you have progress, why bother to change? Britain's success is too valuable, too

preserve the success of the British economy today than they could have helped to create it in the first place." Mr Major said Labour had opposed every change - on privatisation, on union reforms, on public spending curbs and on taxation - that the

Tories had proposed. Mr Major pointed to this week's fall in unemployment, the largest for 25 years, "the glowing OECD report that put the British economy top of the class. You know that Britain's economic success isn't thanks to big benevolent governments telling you what to do.

Ministers believe that, having

make a decision on the single currency before the election, the party should campaign more aggressively on Europe by underlining clear differences between the Conservatives and Labour.

Robin Cook, Labour's Foreign Secretary, accused Mr Major of being unable to unite his own party on Europe. He said: "John Major is a weak leader and the leader of a

divided party.
"No-one will be impressed by his claims over Europe. The record shows he never gets his way, that he constantly fails Britain and fails Britain's interests."

## Minister claims victory on fish quotas after all-night talks

IN BRUSSELS AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

TONY BALDRY, the Fisheries Minister, claimed victory yesterday after striking a deal that will keep Britain's fish quotas next year at virtually the same level overall as in

The 21-hour talks in Brussels were so gruelling that Emma Bonino, the European Fisheries Commisioner, col-lapsed and was unable to attend the closing press conference. "She is exhausted," her spokesman said. Mr Baldry said all-night talks

He said that he had achieved all Britain's objec-tives and that overall fish quotas would be just half a percentage point down on last year. He estimated that British fishermen would be £16 million better off in 1997 than they would have been had all the quota cuts pro-posed by Brussels been accepted. "Given where negotiations started, that is a considerable achievement.

Ulster Unionists, Northern Irish fishermen and Tory backbenchers indicated last night that Mr Baldry's deal was acceptable. William Ross, the Unionists' fisheries spokesman, said: "It seems from first reports that Northern Ireland has come out of it as well as can be expected."

The deal appeared to have removed any immediate threat of the nine Ulster Unionist MPs in the Commons refusing to vote with the Government in the new year

WEST OF SCOTLAND NORTH SEA -12.9 +30 49,000 - 54,860 WEST OF IRELAND 1997 IRISH SEA SOUTH WEST/BRISTOL CHANNEL

HOW BRITAIN'S FISHING QUOTAS HAVE CHANGED

and possibly forcing an early general election. The Union-ists had fired a warning shot across the Government's bows by abstaining in the fisheries vote in the Commons on Monday.

Paul Leeman, chairman of the Northern Ireland Fish Producers' Organisation, said: "Mr Baldry has done well. The result is not as bad as we expected. There is no doubt that the deal would have been much less satisfactory without the pressure exerted by the Ulster Unionists."

Although Northern Irish fishermen will have to accept a 25 per cent drop in the plaice catch in the Irish Sea, they will benefit from a 28 per cent increase in the herring quota. Cod, whiting and prawn quotas in the Irish Sea will remain at about this year's level or slightly above.

Mr Baldry, who had denied at the start of the negotiations that he was under pressure from the Ulster Unionists to secure special concessions for Ulster fishermen, said he had done "no more and no less" for them than for any other

Barrie Deas, chief executive of the National Federation of Fisherman's Organisations, said: "Mr Baldry has secured some important improvements and mitigated some damaging cuts but there is still a lot of pain." A cut of 22 per cent in the North Sea sole quota was "savage", he said. Mr Baldry said the reduc-

tion in the North Sea sole catch was necessary to prevent stocks collapsing and damaging the fishing industry in the long term. He pointed out that the European Commission, on scientific advice, had asked for a reduction of 48 per cent.

The whiting quota will go up by 11 per cent in the North Sea and by 30 per cent west of Scotland, and the haddock quota in waters west of Ireland, the South West, the English Channel and the Irish Sea will double, albeit from a low base. Filippo di Robilant. spokesman for Emma Bonino, said the Commission could live with the fish catches agreed yesterday.

"It is satisfactory. This year has been a good year for fish," he said. This does not mean that we can go and plunder because next year could be

European Union ministers also agreed to set up a satellite monitoring system by June 1998 to combat the problem of illegal fishing. All boats that are more than 24 meres in length will have to install tracking equipment, for which member states will get 100 per cent funding from the EU.

work in the West Country.

In 1992, Robinson's took the

unusual step of withdrawing

from the Legal Aid Board's

duty solicitor scheme when Mr Robinson criticised the administrative chaos and

complained that some suspects were waiting in police cells for up to five hours before

Instead the firm set up a flying squad of legal executives or clerks, driving company BMWs with the registration plates IAW. to

provide round the clock legal

help to people accused of serious crimes across England

and Wales. While effective in capturing

much of the work provided by

those taken into custody accused of serious crime they

were not universally well re-

ceived by other lawyers, the

legal establishment or indeed,

clerks from entering police

stations to interview clients.

### Regulator attacks Railtrack investment

Railtrack's record of invest ment in the railways was condemned as "wholly unacceptable" yesterday by the privatised industry's regulator.

John Swift said he would be demanding prompt action from the company to ensure an improvement in spending on maintaining and improving the network's track, signalling, tunnels and bridges.

In a letter to the pressure group Save Our Railways, Mr Swift also said he would seek a detailed statement from Railtrack on its commitment to its infrastructure investment plan. Railtrack said it planned to invest £10 billion in the network over the next ten years but that it was taking time to build up to these "ambitious" levels.

#### Ulster braced for new IRA terror

Northern Ireland has been put on a full-scale terrorist alert after the Royal Ulster Constabulary warned that intelligence reports and weap-ons finds indicated the IRA was intent on launching a

new campaign.

Meanwhile John Hume, leader of the SDLP, urged John Major to take a "minor risk" for peace by clearing the way for Sinn Fein to enter allparty talks. He said he thought that a genuine ceasefire could be secured.

## Maguire faces

Donna Maguire, the convicted IRA bomber, is facing a new trial over a broken ankle. Maguire, 30, was awarded £13,500 compensation after telling a judge that she injured her ankle when she tripped on a broken footpath near her home in Newry, Co Down. The Court of Appeal in Belfast yesterday ordered a retrial after being told no record could be found of a child Maguire had claimed to be visitng in hospital at the

#### Reynolds appeals on libel decision

The former Irish Prime Minister, Albert Reynolds, is to appeal against the London High Court finding that he had been libelled by The Sunday Times but eligible for the libelled by the Sunday Times but eligible for the libelled by the libe

only Ip in damages.

Mr Reynolds, 64, said the summing-up by Mr Justice French at the end of the six week trial was "unbalanced and grossly unfair". He said the jury's decision about damages was adversely affected by it.

#### Princess's friend in robbery ordeal

A close friend of Princess Margaret, Countess of Snow-don, is recovering in hospital after being beaten and robbed at his home in west London. Ben Holland-Martin, 41, sustained a broken nose, ribs and cheek bone, multiple stab wounds and severe multiple bruising.

Two men pulled a gun on the financier as he parked his BMW. They fied him up and threatened to kill him before driving off in the car.

## Fraud office investigates Tracie Andrews' solicitors

sented Miss Andrews at yes-

terday's hearing, claimed at

THE legal firm representing Tracie Andrews is currently under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office following allegations of systematic long-term abuse of the legal

Robinsons, the leading firm in the West Country, and one of the largest in Britain, has long courted controversy by breaking the time-honoured conventions of the legal establishment. Police raided the firm's offices in Bristol, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Swindon last year and also the home of some of the partners.

the time that the raids were a "fishing expedition" possibly prompted by a complaint from a former employee. The Serious Fraud Office said yesterday: "There is an ongoing investigation into alleged fraud on the Legal Aid

Board." She was unable to say when the inquiry would be Mr Robinson, described by colleagues as flamboyant and a larger than life character" is considered an impressive courtroom advocate and his

firm has expanded to capture Tim Robinson, who repre- a large amount of the legal aid

## 'Road rage' case

Continued from page 1 joke that she intended to play

on Mr Harvey as it was a garment normally worn by black people which he would

have hated.

Miss Moreton said two
fragments of a "multifunctional" knife had been found. one beneath Mr Harvey's body and one nearby. Police have yet to find a murder weapon, but the prosecution claimed Miss Andrews had time to get rid of the knife. She had not been strip searched as she was not a suspect at the start. Bloodstains on Miss Andrews's clothes suggested she stabbed Mr Harvey, and on Monday.

ed her version of where her fiance was murdered.

inson, said: "When did you ever, ever hear a case ... where there is a such a dramatic lack of hard evidence?" He said his client stood by her description of the road rage killing that could have been racially motivated, as Mr Harvey is dark skinned and frequently mistaken as being Asian. Mr Robinson said he hoped

a judge at Birmingham Crown Court would hear Miss Andrews's application for bail

ing clear contingency plans to

the police. Nor had the firms earlier Defence solicitor, Tim Robmethod of providing a service always proved popular. In 1989 Avon and Somerset police barned six of Mr Robinson's

> Mr Robinson mounted a challenge in the High Court and succeeded in getting the ruling overturned. The firm was also reported to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau in the same year for entering a float in the Cheltenham carnival which depicted a

courtroom scene.

## Millennium chief resigns



Hartop disillusioned

ensure that the lottery is not left with a huge commitment extend the period by up to two that will take money from years, a proposal that Labour has denounced as "madness". other good causes. Ministers claim that plans

Jack Cunningham, Shadow National Heritage Secretary, for the exhibition are in jeopardy because Labour has met Bob Ayling, chairman of Millernium Central, this week to funding proposals. not backed proposals for the national lottery to take on any losses from the 2000 event. Although the meeting was described as "constructive". At present, £200 million is to be taken from the lottery. Dr Cunningham is under-£150 million from private companies and the remaining £350 million from other instood to retain deep reserva-tions over the viability of the project. He said that Mr come including ticket sales. Hartop's decision "can hardly Labour figures are demand-

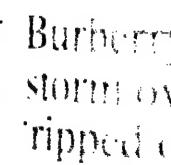
improve the credibility of the

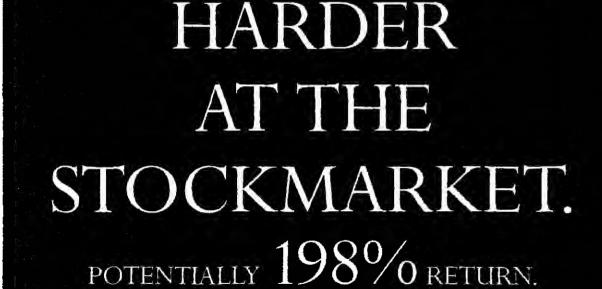
project" and he said that the appointment of "yet another minister is hardly the credibility either." Mr Hartop was brought in

to be chief executive of the Millennium Central by Mr Heseltine. He was seconded from the Welsh Development Agency, where he had been brought in as a troubleshooter. In his three months, he drew up a business plan for the exhibition which costed it at £704 million. Colleagues suggest that he sees no role for himself now that it is to be run as a public company.



Mother freed when a trace with the street at the street at





TESSA WORKS

Rob Hughes at

MATTHEW

The Columnist

of the Year

Starts the

arts week

K230

#### PLUS EXCLUSIVE 8% FIXED RATE BOND OPTION.

Imagine it, the tax-free benefits of a TESSA, the guaranteed return of your capital, plus the potential of stockmarket-linked high returns - that's the beauty of Abbey National's new Stockmarket TESSA.

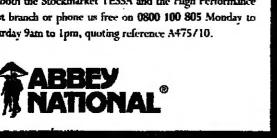
This new TESSA becomes part of our TESSA Collection on 1st January. Returns are linked to the performance of the UK and US stockmarkets - for every month in which both indices rise, no matter by how little, interest is added to your

account at a rate of 1.15% gross, Should this happen every month over the 5 year period this would equate to a return, over and above your original capital

To take advantage of this new TESSA you'll simply need to invest £9000 for a period of 5 years. What's more, for investing customers there's a unique opportunity to take advantage of the attractive High Performance Bond, offering a fixed rate of

For more information on both the Stockmarket TESSA and the High Performance Bond call into your nearest branch or phone us free on 0800 100 805 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm or Saturday 9am to 1pm, quoting reference A475/10.





To assist us in improving our service we may record or mainter calls. TESNA are subject to statutory rules and regulations which may change from time to time. To be eligible to open a Stockmarker TESNA viru must be able to make £9000 for five wars. No partial walidrawals are permitted, certain penalities will be applied for cleasure before the end of this term. No interest is parable of either or both of the indices have remained the same or fallon to a force level of the end of the month compared to the end of the pressons month. See leaflest for fine conditions. A manusum in estimate of £1000 and a manusum investment of £900) is required for the High Performance Bond which is only available to Stockmarker TESNA assenters. The Bond will mature on the first day of the following month, one very after opening. You may be able to register with as to revene interest grown otherwise it will be paid test of income tax at the prescribed rate. Abbey National and the Umbrella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abbey National ple, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL

## Debbie Smith's nine-month jail sentence quashed in Court of Appeal

## Mother freed after stiletto attack on husband's lover

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A MOTHER jailed for attack-ing her husband's mistress with a stiletto-heeled shoe spoke of her joy yesterday after being freed in time to spend Christmas with her family. Debbie Smith, who collapsed immediately after her nine-month jail sentence was quashed in the Court of Appeal, later thanked every-one who had supported her

atlacks

温力機

a ced for

S 177 (2

. .: -- 7:225

"fight for justice". She said: "I am obviously delighted at the court's decision. But I have been through a terrible ordeal and now just want to be reunited with my children."

Mrs Smith, 29, was jailed last week after being convicted of attacking her best friend, whom she had discovered in a bedroom with her husband. She began sobbing heavily yesterday and her legs gave way as Lord Justice Beldam

substituted a one-year probation order for the prison term. Less than an hour later, Mrs Smith, of Dukinfield, Greater Manchester, looked more composed as she was hustled by minders from The Sun to a waiting Mercedes for a reunion with her children, Emma, 11, Jeff, 9, and Jona-

John Parsons, her solicitor,

absolutely delighted at what her body and face. Lord Jushas happened and that the appeal has been allowed. The family is glad to be reunited for Christmas."

Mrs Smith's release came four days after she was led away from Manchester Crown Court in handcuffs for unlawful wounding and af-fray, screaming for her children. She was held in the hospital wing of Risley re-mand centre, near Warring-ton, because doctors were concerned at her emotional state. The trial judge, Judge Peter Lakin, had described her behaviour as unnecessary and unreasonable. She had surprised her husband, Jeffrey, 31, and her former best friend, Francine French, 30, in the bedroom of her brother-inlaw's home and, losing con-trol, had lashed out with the

In his judgment yesterday Lord Justice Beldam described Mrs Smith as a hard-working and good mother. He said she had been grossly provoked by a husband who had been carrying on a secret affair with the next-door neighbour. Mrs French was not badly injured in the assault, but Mrs Smith suffered a fractured wrist.

broken stiletto heel of her

grandmother.
The family is understood to have sold their story to The Sun for an undisclosed sum. Lawyers for the family said that any deal was a private said outside court: "We are strained neck and bruises on Gladys Adshead, 59, Mrs

Smith's mother, said afterwards: "It is the best Christmas present i could have wished. It is such a relief." Mr Smith's family reacted

care for her and console her.

with anger last night at the court's decision. Michael Smith, his brother, said that no one knew the whole truth of what happened in the marriage. He described Mrs Smith as unstable, vengeful, and destructive. He said: "We have lost all

faith in the justice system. She is the one who broke the law and she has made his life hell for years. All that Jeff has done is to build himself a new life after years of misery and



Debbie Smith clutching a photograph of her three children, shown below, as she left court yesterday. She thanked those who supported her "fight for justice"



### Lawyer's violence drove wife to run over child

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SOLICITOR'S wife drove her car over a girl aged six while escaping from her hus-band, who had punched her after drinking heavily at a party.

Sonia Hall realised what she had done when she stopped the car to try to shake her husband off the bonnet, where he was hanging on by the windscreen wipers. She had been trying to drive across a field without her headlights on. The girl suffered a ruotured liver but has since recovered.

When Mrs Hall, of Bourne mouth, appeared at Oxford Crown Court yesterday, the judge criticised her husband, Richard Hall for his "dis-graceful" behaviour. He said he was largely to blame for the accident during a Round Table weekend party at Oxford Rugby Football Club.

Mrs Hall admitted wilful neglect causing actual bodily harm. The prosecution dropped a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm. She was given a conditional discharge for 12 months.

Mr Hall did not attend the hearing, where Judge Paul Clark told his wife: "This court sees all too much the evil effects on others of matrimonial discord. On the balance of evidence your husband behaved disgracefully when drunk and it was totally improper conduct for a solicitor of the Supreme Court.

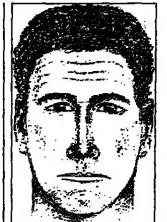
"You are well aware of the awful thing you did, but the blame largely attaches to your husband who, it appears, is a man of drink and violence." Mrs Hall told police she

could not remember getting into the car or driving it after she was punched, adding: "I didn't intend to hurt my husband or anyone else." Stewart Patterson, for Mrs Hall, said the couple had 2

background of rows and vio-

lence. "Her husband was very

drunk and this is confirmed by police. His behaviour to them was quite obnoxious." The court was told that the girl's parents were consider-. ing a civil claim against Mr Hall, who was now likely to be



Computer likeness of

#### Police show face of man wanted over vicious rape

By Lin Jenkins

POLICE investigating the rape of a woman ignored by motorists as she struggled with her attacker yesterday issued a computerised image of a man they want to question.

Detectives in Kent issued

the likeness of a man seen in Watts Lane, Chislehurst, where the 36-year-old senior civil servant was beaten in the face as she tried to fight him off, dragged through a thick gorse bush and raped.

Only one of 378 motorists stopped by police at the traffic bottleneck 24 hours after the attack said that they had driven the route the previous evening. The woman was attacked at about 7pm after walking from Chislehurst

Nobody said that they saw her struggling on the pavement with the rapist for up to five minutes as traffic queued at the mini-roundabout next to Chislehurst cricket ground. The woman said that she was so close to the passing traffic that she could distinguish the faces of drivers.

While disappointed with the results of the roadblock, detectives said they have had a good response from appeals to the public. The woman. who was told by her attacker that she would be stabbed to death if she tried to shout for help, was still being treated in hospital last night.

She has injuries to her face

and inside her mouth. A metal object was pushed into her mouth and she was knocked to the ground and repeatedly kicked in the head and body.

### Councillor lied for £9,000 in benefits

By A Staff Reporter

A LABOUR councillor who traudulently claimed housing benefit from his own authority was discovered when he filled in a nomination form for a

local election. Christopher Wright was not registered for council tax at the address he gave and council officers investigated. Yester-day Wright. 49. of Broadstairs, Kent, was jailed for six months. He admitted seven charges of deception and asked for 39 similar offences to be considered.

His wife Brenda, 52, admitted three similar charges at a previous hearing and asked for 26 more to be considered. The couple claimed a total of

Wright, a former publican and printer, twice stood unsuccessfully for Parliament. He was heavily defeated in the Thanet South seat in 1987 by lesselses. After win-Jonathan Aitken. After winning, the Tory MP said: "He was the Tories' secret weapon. He was loutish, boorish and

A Labour councillor, Derrick Mortlock, said of Wright "His activities give us great cause for regret. With the benefit of hindsight, it is unfortunate he was our parliamentary candidate."

The Wrights, who were fiving together but not mar-ried when the deception started claimed they were brother and sister. They saidthey had no income other than income support, and no propcrty except their home. But shortly before Wright em-barked on his fametorer couple bought a five-storey property at Margate, divided into flats. It was rented out and brought them at least £15,000 a year. During the investigation Wright claimed it belonged to a coust's.

Judge David Croft, QC, told Wright: This was a persistent and carefully thought-out crime. You knew the system and you milked it for greed, not because you needed it."
Brenda Wright was given 18
months' probation and 100 hours' community service.

## **Burberrys** brews legal storm over designer's 'ripped off' coat check

By GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR

BURBERRYS, the clothing company renowned for its raincoats, has taken legal action to prevent the British designer Paul Smith from using a beige and red check similar to the Burberry design

in his menswerr line.

Executives decided to act after they saw a Paul Smith coat featured in the September issue of the magazine FHM. They contacted Smith, claiming that the check, first used by the company in the 1920s, was a recognisable

trade mark. When Smith refused to withdraw the offending coat, Burberrys sought an injunc-tion stopping Paul Smith Ltd from manufacturing and sell-ing coats in what it claims is the Burberry check. The battle will be hard fought, as both will be hard fought, as both companies enjoy considerable success in Japan, where traditional British designs are much sought after and where Smith is the biggest selling European designer.

Paul Smith Ltd has 184 stores worldwide, including eight in Britain, me in Paris.

eight in Britain, one in Paris, one in New York, and 162 in Japan, anda worldwide turnover of £142 million. Smith, 50, was unavailable for com-

ment yesterday.

He is known for a distinc-tively British style, but one which is modern rather than Saville Row inspired. By contrast, Burberrys is the quintes-sential traditional English label, with two Royal War-rants. The Burberry even appears in the Oxford English Dictionary as a generic name for a good quality raincoat.
Founded by Thomas Burberry in 1856, the company, which has 55 stores worldwide, started out as a manufacturer of weatherproof gabardine clothes. The first Burberry raincoat, known as the "slip-on", went on sale in the 1890's.

The check design originated in Edinburgh in 1924 and was first used as a lining along with many other pat-terns. It was not until the 1960s that the check emerged

as the most popular lining

In 1968, the check was introduced into Japan on umbrellas, and raincoats soon followed. The Americans also took to the check, used pri-marily as a lining. By the late 1980s it was seen as epitomising the city slicker style — Michael Douglas were one in the film Wall

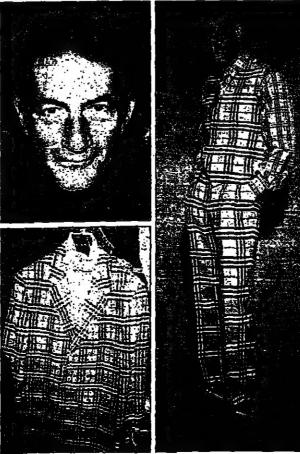
Marcello Mastroianni, who died this week, was the trench coat's best advertisement - he wore one throughout the sixties and seventies. Other film stars to sport the check included Ingrid Bergman and Grace Kelly, as well as Jacques Tati in Mon Oncle. It cropped up again this year in the film Mission: Impossible,

in which it was worn by John

Over the years, men have evolved "right" and "wrong" ways to wear the Burberry raincoat. Buckling the belt is seen as wrong, tying it as "right". A turned-up collar has been fashionable, off and on. Despite all this, the raincoal — the men's retails at £425 —

now accounts for only 10 per cent of Burberrys' sales. The check, however, is featured on over 300 products accounting for £500 million at wholesale The best-selling item is a

cashmere muffler. "People have been ripping off the check for 25 years," Stanley Peacock, managing director, said. "But usually



Burberrys says the coat designed by Paul Smith. above, is too like their own check design, right

## thinking of American Express as a

#### Think again.

Are you stuck at the top of the interest rate ladder, paying as much as 23% APR? Come back down to earth with American Express. With our new Credit Card not only will you enjoy a low 16.7% APR on any existing balance transfer but also on all new purchases. Plus there's no annual fee for the first year.

To find out how we can help you do more, call now:





AFR, internst rates and other charges from time to time. A written quotation is nonlinkle on request. The standard interest rates and other charges from time to time. A written quotation is nonlinkle on request. The standard interest rate for goods and servaces is 1.3% per month (16.7% APR) and 1.7% per month (22.4% APR) for each adjunctor, quick most be report in full each quotat. The numination monthly repayments will be 5% of the outstanding balance or C20 whichever is greater. Applicants most be 18 or over. Subject to status. American Express Services Europe U.d. Reg. Office, Partinal House, 1 Sing Place, London SWIE 58Z. Reg. No. 1833139.

## Tiny rays of hope for premature babies

THE SUNDAY TIMES The real Evita's story

Juan Peron had a taste for child mistresses. Evita fitted the pattern. Even at 24, she could still be mistaken for a doll. But it would be wrong to assume



that their first night together was one of great passion. She was frigid, he was lethargic. They were like two children. His massive body, which initially reminded her of a bull, turned out on closer acquaintance to be more that of a calf.

Tomorrow read the story of the real Evita

By JOHN YOUNG AT THE age of 15 months. Beth Nee is a picture of health and happiness, adored by the staff of the Evelina Children's Hospital in southeast London and enjoying the attentions of a

reporter and photographer from The Times. Yet it is something of a miracle that she is alive, let alone thriving. She was born Il weeks prematurely, her twin brother died at birth and she was given less than a 50 per cent chance of survival. For the first three months

che was on a ventilator until her lungs matured enough to support her tiny body. Her kidneys failed she needed dialysis for five weeks, had to be fed intravenously and then developed a serious blood infection.

But after five months she was able to leave hospital, her kidneys are functioning normally and she has been back only for periodic check-ups. Her mother, Lorraine, from Orpington, Kent, also has kidney problems and has been told that she can have no more babies. "So you can see that Beth really is a very special package," she said.

....50 d249

OVER 15 IN STORE

50 d**699** m

OVER 50 IN STORE

GOODMANS 23)

al. for others the struggle is maturity. only just beginning. Each of the cots in the neo-natal ward at the Evelina - the paediatrie department of the Guy's and St Thomas' Hospi-

In one corner of the ward David and Gail Burrows, of Gravesend, Kent, are at the bedside of their daughter. Hollie. She was born at just

23 weeks, an age at which, according to Dr Grenville tal Trust - contains a tiny body born before its time and needing all the help of mod-Fox, a pacdiatric consultant, ern medicine to enable its the great majority fail to

The Evelina Appeal I enclose a cheque / postal order (payable to The Evelina Children's Hospital Appeal) for E ...... Or, please debit my Visa / Access / Mastercard account 

To make an instant credit card donation, please telephone 0171-403 4099, or send this coupon with your donation to:

The Evelina Appeals Office Henriette Raphael House Guy's Hospital St Thomas Street, SEI 9RT Reg. Charity No. 251983 would like my gift to help Research . Care □, Equipment □ or the General Appeal Fund □ (tick as appropriate). ☐ Tick here if you would like a receipt.



of brain damage caused by haemorrhages or lack of oxygen," he said. "The lungs are also frequently damaged and a significant proportion of children born so early will grow up handicapped.

"If their condition deteriorates after birth, we have to question whether resuscitation is worthwhile, although of course we also take the parents' wishes into account. In Hollie's case, she was looking good and we decided to put her straight on a In the first two weeks of ber

life, she has suffered a blood infection, a small brain haemorrhage and her heart is under strain from an unclosed valve, yet the prog-nosis is still reasonably optimistic. Mrs Burrows has had three previous miscarriages and her last child lived for just 20 minutes. "We're just glad every time we come here and find Hollie's still here," her husband said. Everyone has been magnificent."

Like all the London teach-

ing hospitals, Guy's combines the functions of a centre of specialist expertise with those of a district general hospital. Of the 2,500 babies born each year in the Guy's district.

WASHER DRIVERS

200 TAB TAB (20 029 H

SAVE & £130 ON REFRIGERATION OVER 65 PRODUCTS IN STORE

MIL COMET REPRESENTION MPLMACES ARE CA'C FREE

1 Colors were followed the special spe

HOTPORT REPLETOR LE SELLIPRE CENT. ACCORDER STATE.

Beth Nee and her mother, Lorraine, at the Evelina Children's Hospital

brought in from further afield because of the quality of its post-natal care.

Dr Judy Rissik, associate paediatric specialist, says that all babies born more than three weeks early are defined as premature, but the biggest difficulties come with those

KENNOOD MARKET SUM I THE MEMBER AND SUM IN T

SAVE \$50% ON VACUUM CLEANERS

OVER 30 BY STORE

GVER SU IN STORE

THE OWN FAIR CHAPTER AT ALLED

CHAPTER WAS THE BOTH AT COMMENT

OF MANY CLEAKER OWN FOR

OF MANY CLEAKER OWN FOR

ON ANY CLEAKER OWN

SAVE \$50% ON CHRISTMAS GIFTS

ORR NO CORSONS OF THE STORE

PHERS - TO FINE HE TO SEE AND THE TOP THE TOP

£6 OFF

ANY SHAPER OVER DES WITH THIS VOUCHERS REMINISTORY NO TO THE PARTY

born at 23 or 24 weeks. Apart from brain damage, they are likely to experience heart, lung, kidney or neurological diseases, and often a combination of more than one. "In most cases, these can be

after birth. Sometimes an immediate operation is needed, but obviously the risks are that much greater, so we try to let them grow a bit." Many, like Beth Nec, have indeed grown more than a bit. Less than a generation

detected by pre-natal scan-ning," she said. "But someago they would have stood little chance. times the problems develop Woman's desperate

hunt for egg donor

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN INFERTILE woman desperate to have a child has been told to find an egg donor within four months or lose her place as next in line for in

The 32-year-old, who has waited five years to reach the top of the queue, yesterday appealed for someone to give ber "the most precious of Christmas gifts". Doctors have told the woman that the NHS allocation of £2,000 will go to someone else if it is not taken up by April.

The woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, and her husband come from the North East. Both her ovaries were removed when she was 17 after cysts were discovered. She was also born without fallopian tubes.

However IVF technology can allow such women to

become pregnant by using a donor egg fertilised in the laboratory by sperm from the transplanted into the womb.

The woman has been accepted on the programme run by South Cleveland Hospital in Middlesbrough, which has treated 47 people this year. Her sister offered to donate an egg but at 36 she is one year too old to be accepted.

The woman said: "My husband and I are both desperate for a baby and it is hard to describe what that longing is like. It feels as if something is missing." Philip Taylor, the consultant gynaecologist in charge of the programme, said donors were hard to find. We would welcome any women who feel able to donate eggs as we always have patients waiting."

**UP TO 50% OFF** 

COUSANCES PAR LE CREUSET LE CREUSET TRADITIONAL 15% OFF

POTERIE FRANCAISE **UP TO 30\* OFF** 

SELECTED KNIVES

01273 329877 M CANTERBURY NASONS DEPT. STORE 01227 456755

· = CAMEREDGE FITZROY ST. 01223 321579 E COVERT GARGER • 0171 836 9167 **SOLDBULL** MILL LANE **8121 7092302** 

OTHER . PRODUCTS : M METER, TEM. Rich Control O ELIZABETH O DAVID

**COOKSHOP** 

THAL :

POOLE -

POTTERY -

AND MANY -

SAVE SESSOO ON MULTIMEDIA PCS ALABLE AT MOST STORES
FROM PROFESS TO THE MOST STORES
ON MISCONNESSA POST 1300 1099 m nm per:150:1349.m Section (1789)
Set 176499
Set 176 CATEGOR IN THE SERVICE SAME TANK AND THE PARTY LANDING. ACC CITY OF THE CONTROL AND TH PROOF CYCLE

EPSON 500 Cools high Pater

Lin o Lapta per mando 72 = 720 da recibira

Prior Res per manto pi consmittadi

antiquativa per per l'arreptante SAVE # £90 ON VIDEOS CANON ACCOMPANY From The American Company of the Co TO FLORIDAS OVER 80 IN STORE Longosy Dynas recompletes reach sea (1739) proceed, CEO 99 (1730) process (164 % Spec (120 (149 sp PORTABLE TYPE
GOODMANS 127 IN REPORT TYPE
IN THE PROPERTY TYPE
IN THE PROPERTY TYPE
IN THE PROPERTY TYPE
IN THE PROPERTY TYPE
PR SAMSUNG (\*\*)
\*\*Machine\*\*
\*\*Mac MC - 49 ME North MC N ODMANS 1527 12 lease in 10 d49 n NC CHEST STEFF TO ME ANIA -- NA 200 - Programme Sale Forms (1998) (1 PANASONIC WORSENIES

PANASONIC WORSE

PA SONY LOSIO SERVICES NOT A TOPIC SONY CASE OF THE SONY TO SONY And deposit and the second of SONY (TO THE SEE ) SONY FRANCE MESSAN MEN 1799 A SAVE = 250° ON SATELLITE SYSTEMS MORE INSTORE ORES CHEMA TY ONY CORP. IT for Come III for the member in Logic Service Stand I had to the Come Service Service Service I had to the Come Service Service Service are Column Service BMY TV STREE FOR 20 DAYSA CANCELLA CONTROL CONTR NC NAME OF THE POST HOW DOWN IN SET AND APPENDENCE. 1849 SE MANUFACTURE STATE OF THE POST PACE IS TO SHE LINE I SONY PRINCES

21 Address from Control to

22 Address from Control to

23 Address from NEW 1999 in AUDIO SYSTEMS OVER 130 PRODUCTS IN STORE SAVE SE200 OH TV/VIDEO PACKAGES PERSONAL AUDIO
VENTURER DUCKY Person DE Page
Unión propriette de Page
Referation Reseauch
Sindre de Page
Sindre MORE PACKAGES IN STORE BUT NOW FOR UP TO 12 THE UPER ON ALL PACKAGES PANASONIC CONFERENCE PART Sea ton Management and Conference Part a

SAVE E ETTO ON TOP To the second se SAVE UP TO \$10 ON KEYBOARDS THE STATE OF "seeff) (\$4.5

Control of the contro GOLDSTAR 2020, CD Comp Rado Carago ALARI Energy Red Programme CD Renton pag NEW (79.5) PHILPS AZOL: CD Rento Carago Section (a) COLD Sectio AND PROPERTY OF THE LEASE TO SEE THE SECOND OF THE SECOND Reg Concentration State Congression in Reg Concentration State Congression in Reg Point State Congression in Reg Point Congression Congres MC N. 1928 1939 - W. Chen Come 1939 - W. Chen Come 1939 - W. Chen Pripare und 2000 - W. Chen Pripare und Come des les 1939 - Seculo (1939) PARTY TO SERVE IN COME TO SERVE AND THE COME TO SERVE AND THE COME OF ORDERS OF COMMENT OF THE PARTY CD PLAYERS MARANTZ CES CO Ave

Des Constructions of the Construction of the C FAMANA PERINGENT STEERS AT THE SECOND STEERS AT THE SECOND STEERS AS THE SECOND STEERS AT THE GOODWAYS 15 TO THE STATE OF THE

SANTO STORY OF THE STREET OF T PRO-LOGIC HI-FI SYSTEMS AKAI NOO SANGARA IS GAR 'N GARATA RESONA NAMERINA

GOODLANS WARD DE WEER TO Un to FERRIS AND TO

VENTURER COMP : De Maria Cità:

TO SECURE SECURITION OF SECURITIES SECURITION OF SECURITION OF SECURITION OF SECURITION OF SECURITIES SECURITION OF SECURITIES SECURITION OF SECURITION OF SECURITION OF SECURITION OF SECURITIES SECURITION OF SECU

ANA SCOTT De Mana II Vin 4-1

3550% d29s

SAVE S 220 ON PHONES & ANSWERING MACHINES OVER 55 IN STORE BETACOM: ELETERATE SECONDA SECTION OF THE SECTIO SAVE SE 120 ON LAUNDRY PRODUCTS
OVER 55 IN STORE The strong regions and TAVE a proser Taken programme
The strong regions and the strong regions
The strong regions are strong regions
THE CAMES STORY
THE CAM 

sacial) Zala WHER POOL AND DESIGNATION OF THE POOL AND DESIGNATION OF T FREE SKY SATELLITE SYSTEM INCLUDING FREE INSTALLATION OFFER NOW EXTENDED AT COMET

any Sky package, subject to conditions. See in store for full details.\* You can't buy better this Christmas

system absolutely tree, we'll even install it free boo. Smoly subscribe to

SAVE 50% ON MICROWAVES OVER 25 IN STORE

PHILIPS KIND SHOP

RING FREE ON 0500 425 425 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE AND MULTIMEDIA COMPUTER CENTRE. MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY AND UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS

TRICTY BENDAL (22)FIRE PROPERTY STATES AND THE ST APP NAME AND PRODUCT OWNS CO. II. HOTPOINT did not fine fine from the first of the first of the first fine fine from the first of BRADN CHEC ; St. Spendere Sec. Hardy Ville and Administration for the Control of UPRIGHT FREEZERS PROUNE 92" beginning 19084 SCANDROMA (Fig. Res. For Complex Print)
SCANDROMA (Fig. Res. For Complex Print)
Set (Fig. Res. For Complex Print)
Set (Fig. Res. For Complex Print)
Set (Fig. Res. Fig. Res. Fig CHEST PRESZERS Part total telepoid: \$10.00 SPAIN CFF Page Remove Conduct enterprise territoria Conduct enterprise territoria conductivi proventi pratinati pratici pr SCANDBOVA CALC Control of the Contro COOKING
ONE THE COOKING APPLIANCES
IN THE EXPRACEMENT COOKE COOLUMN PLY HOW PRY UP TO HE POWING LATER ON REL COOLERS DINES THE

MORE IN STORE DELONGHI 75 tid Committee 6 ille mily contingen 2.5 inc. 24 tour pain PROJECTION OF THE STANDARD CONCERNS
PROJECTION OF THE STANDARD CONCERNS
PROJECTION OF THE STANDARD CONCERNS
STORY CONCERNS THE STANDARD PARMETELEOROL RESIDENCE SAVE % £12 ON HEATING APPLIANCES MANY MORE IN STORE ACCURATE ANY MARK THE MARKET LEVEL TO THE TOWN T GLEN 9": 2" Comez resor Control and Parinters 100000 DE ONGH WEDT DE FAMILIANE L'Arting ally Tremplate crasts thanks Lechal scriptor van 1648 erwon (458 Sing EN) SAVE \$50% ON ACCESSORIES

OVER 450 PRODUCTS IN STORE MAYEL (St. 13 June 145 Texts Charles to the state of the COMETEND STATE OF LINE DURACELL #11952/gan Barrens ONE FOR ALL 4 Persons

The Rev Royston Such Our report (December 10) 1994, and he divorced her on about the divorce and remarriage of the Rev Royston Such. adultery. We also accept that Vicar of Ropley, Hampshire, the relationship between Mr suggested that he abandoned Such and Ms Riviere was his first wife for his curate, the
Rev Tana Riviere, for which he
faced possible dismissal.

always proper and was strictly
professional until well after
faced possible dismissal. We are asked to make it lute. They married on August clear, and we accept, that Mr 31, 1995. We apologise for Such did not abandon his these mistakes and for any wife. She left him in October embarrassment caused.

ere is on

1-4. <u>2</u> 13. us -13. us

\* \*\*<u>-</u>

16

realition in the second second

## Wealth and beauty hid a history of childhood traumas

EMMA GIFFORD, who was put on probation yesterday for three years after admitting infanticide, was wealthy. charming and beautiful -attributes which appeared to guarantee a bright future.

Brought up on a family estate in the rolling country-side of Little Chart, near Ashford, Kent, she was 19 when her father, Michael, bought her a £250,000 flat in South Kensington, London. Mr Gifford, 60, was for 12 years chief executive of the

E3 billion Rank organisation until his retirement last year. His salary was about £400,000 a year, with share options worth an extra £428,000 in 1984.

As a tecnager, Emma attended the £7,500-a-year St Edmunds School in Canterbury, Kent, where she appeared happy and was popular with the other girls. She spoke often of her ambition to become an actress. She was considered bright, charm-

n's desperat

or egg donor

was considered urigin, charm-ing, confident and gregarious. After leaving school, her springboard into a happy adult life seemed assured when she secured a place at Edinburgh University to study English and Drama.

Soon after she started her first term in 1993, she fell in love with Joseph Ernst, a Portugese architecture undergraduate, who also worked part time as a male model.

But despite this apparently



Miss Gifford: abused by her alcoholic mother

childhood, it has emerged, was turbulent and traumatic, torn between an alcoholic and neglectful mother and an ab-sent, workaholic father.

Mr Gifford's job frequently took him abroad on business and he stayed in London during the week. Emma's mother was alcoholic and was said in court to have "persistently abused" her daughter, who developed an obedient

and pleasing personality.

Only six months after starting university; she took an overdose. With Mr Ernsts help she was encouraged to write to her father and seek help. She started to see a psychiatrist, but her problems had only just begun. In November, after abandoning university and moving to her London flat, she found out she was pregnant. She concealed the pregnancy and gave birth alone at the Chelsea and

baby was adopted, but the protracted process was said to have further contributed to Miss Gifford's deteriorating mental health.

In 1995, she discovered she was pregnant again. Mr Ernst told her he wanted to end the relationship. He moved to Portugal and she pretended she had had an abortion.

On April 5 last year she worked until about midnight at a florists shop. When she returning home she began to experience contractions, lay down in the bathroom and at about 3am gave birth to a son.

The baby appeared to be coughing and not very well. She took him into the living room and tried unsuccessfully to breastfeed him, before both fell asleep. She agonised over her future until 5pm the next day when she was expected to

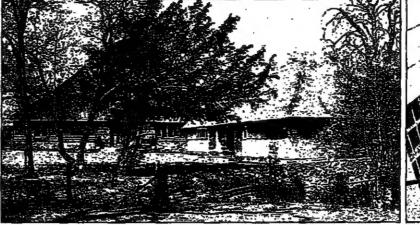
go into work.

William Boyce, for the prosecution, told the Old Bailey: "She felt as though she had no option. She didn't know what to do. So she placed a flannel which she had used to clean the child over his face and put a pair of her boyfriend's pyjama bottoms over his head, and covered his head with a pillow for a couple of minutes and then went away and was physically sick."
Gifford then dressed and

went to work. When she returned she removed the pillow. "She thought the infant was not alive but couldn't really bring herself to look at him," said Mr Boyce.

In a state of despair Gifford rang her brother,





Top, Michael Gifford, a multimillionaire businessman; left, the family home; Miss Gifford's £250,000 flat

Kristopher, who came to collect her "and unknowingly the child because she had it with her" and drove her to the family home in Kent for the night. The next day she returned to the flat and placed the child's body in the freezer.

Doctors who interviewed her at the time said she appeared to have lost all touch with reality. Now 22, Miss Gifford continues to live in her flat and is receiving psychiatric

Family support groups re-

acted with overwhelming sympathy and said it was not unusual for young women to feel vulnerable and isolated when pregnant. A spokeswoman for the Family Plan-ning Association said: "The case does emphasise the need

to make sure that young people know there are agencies designed to listen and provide support in this kind of situation. It is just tragic that this young woman didn't feel she could turn to them for

randina ang kangang ang kalanggang kangang kangang kangang kangang kangang kangang kangang kangang kangang kan

### **QC** faces jail after 'liquid lunch'

By TIM JONES

A BARRISTER who failed to give a second breath specimen after the first had indicated he was nearly four and a half times over the drink-drive limit was warned yesterday that he could be imprisoned.

David Hands, QC, was stopped at 5pm by a plainclo-thes policewoman who had seen him drive down a oneway street near his home in Lambeth, south London, Horseferry Road Magistrates

Court was told.
When Rupert Mayo, for Hands, said his client had had lunch" on the day of his arrest, Alex Ormerod, the magistrate said: "He hadn't just had lunch, he had an enormous amount of alcohol, It was a forbidding liquid lunch. The amount here was absolutely enormous. The court must therefore consider a custodial sentence."

prosecution, said that a roadside test on Hands, 53, had been inconclusive and he had managed at Kennington police station to produce only one specimen when two were

required.

Mr Mayo argued that the incriminating reading could not be used in evidence. But Mr Ormerod said: The law says I can take into account any sample which is provided. You may say that he would have been better off if he hadn't provided a sample at all." Hands, he said, had admitted that the refusal was deliberate by pleading guilty to a charge of failing to provide a specimen.

Mr Mayo said his client's offence would be communicated to the Bar Council. "The conviction will have disastrous consequences, professional and otherwise.

## One fifth of TV violence is on children's shows

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent.

THE amount of violence in that violence can have harmchildren's television - programmes has risen by 3 per cent in the past year, despite repeated calls from the Government and regulators for it

to be reduced. Children's programmes accounted for 22 per cent of all violent acts on television in 1995-96, compared with 19 per cent in 1994-95, according to a survey carried out for all the main broadcasters and television watchdogs. When satel-lite cartoon channels are included, children's pro-grammes account for 34 per cent of all television violence.

Lady Howe of Aberavon, chairwoman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, said she was particularly troubled about the increase in violence in children's programmes largely as a result of the trend to fill up the schedules with animation. "As we have point-ed out, animation represents a real danger to the range and quality of children's programming, as well as through

violent content," she said. Lady Howe said that the survey, conducted by Professor Barrie Gunter of Sheffield University, raised the question of whether television was doing enough to promote posi-tive role models. Are there enough examples of negotiation to resolve disputes, as opposed to verbal and physical aggression?"

The survey, which monitored the content of programmes on ten television channels over 28 selected days, showed that nearly two thirds of all cartoons contained viclence. One aspect likely to worry regulators and viewers is the apparent failure to show

ful effects. In half the incident of violence monitored in chil-

dren's programmes, no physi-

cal injury resulted...

A spokesman for the Independent Television Commission, which co-commissioned the report, said that more research was needed into the effects of animated programmes. To a certain extent there seems to be a Tom and Jerry' factor — these programmes have been the staple of children's television for many years. But as the amount of cartoon material on television increases, we will have to look very carefully at

it." he said. The study also showed that the main source of violence on television was cinema films, which accounted for 54 per cent of all violent acts, compared with 53 per cent a year

Overall, however, violence accounted for only 1.39 per cent of total broadcast hours.



Tom and Jerry: unknown effect of animation

## Gentleman turned bully loses fight

who fell for the English centle man of her dreams was granted a divorce yesterday by a judge who conceded that her husband had become a domi-

ed by Simon Paul, a Londoner, and married him in Las Vegas in 1990. However, he became a "shiftless, dishon-est" brute, her counsel said, forcing her to have their second child adopted against her will and making her sever ties with her family in the United States.

High Court Family Division, granted Ms Cannon, 26, a divorce yesterday against the wishes of her husband. "Al-though I did not find him disagreeable, I was driven to say there was considerable force in the other particulars of counsel's description," the

judge said. Mr Paul, 30, also indulged in what the judge described as "dishonest and fraudulent activity" during the marriage.
"Without hesitation I conclude that the husband has behaved in such a way the wife cannot reasonably be expected to live.

However, he said that Mr

Earlier this year, the judge said he had ruled at the High Court that the child should be

# to keep wife

By LIN JENKINS

AN AMERICAN teenager neering bully. Dana Cannon was captivat-

Mr Justice Wilson, in the

with him."

Paul had contested divorce proceedings, hoping to force her to return from America. where she had fled after being granted custody of their firstborn daughter, Eden, now nearly three. He believed that, if he could make them return he could prove to his wife that their marriage could be saved.

with her mother.

## 'Socialist' address thrown out

BY JOHN SHAW

A BUSINESS consultant won a legal battle yesterday to stop a local authority naming his street after a dead Labour councillor.

Ray Knightly said he had been horrified when he discovered that the development of four and five bedroom houses was to be named Brian Barnard Close, He said the address in Beetley Norfolk, (pop 1,200), sounded like

an old people's home.

Mr Knightly and John Hilditch, developer of the culde-sac, wanted to retain the unofficial name of Elmham Court. Mr Hilditch's development company claimed the formal name was against the

wishes of residents and said that Mr Barnard, a railwayman and active socialist who died in 1988, was known for "extreme partisan views". Robert Stevens, a solicitor

for the company at a hearing at Swaffham Magistrates' Court, said the name conveyed the wrong image for "quality executive homes". He described it as "rather like buying what you thought was a Mercedes only to find out it was a Skoda".

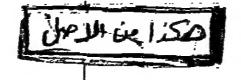
Leslie Perrett, a member of the parish council which unanimously chose the name, said that Mr Barnard had been 'a prime mover in establishing the village play-ing field, the village hall and was very active in the

community". His political views were not relevant to village matters. Michael Horn, for Breck-

land District Council, said: "It is pure snobbery to say it is unsuited to a private development but is all right for council houses." A compromise will now be sought.

The London School of Economics was inadvertently omitted from yesterday's table of university research ratings. The LSE came third, with the number of staff assessed 366. the percentage entered 98, and the average rating 6.27.





## BUPA accused of discriminating against elderly

IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BUPA has clashed with Irish legislators over its health premiums amid accusations that it is discriminating against the elderly and forcing American-style health insurance on Ireland.

The British-owned health insurance company moved into the Irish market last month. It set up in opposition to the government-controlled Voluntary Health Insur-

ance, previously the only Irish company offering private health insurance. But it has run into difficulty already. The Attorney-General, Dermot Gleeson, has raised questions about BUPA's premiums. According to RTE radio. Mr Gleeson is concerned that BUPA is discriminating against the elderly in favour of the

young and healthy. Under Irish legislation, private health insurers are banned from charging older people more for

Insurance Act says all insurers must abide by "community rating" and charge a healthy 25-year-old the same as a frail 85-year-old.

BUPA Ireland introduced a scheme in keeping with community rating. It is a cheaper equivalent of the basic VHI plan. Under the BUPA scheme, a young family of two adults and two children pays an annual premium of £455.74 before tax relief, £36.10 cheaper than the VHI equivalent. However,

their insurance. The 1994 Health only 9 per cent of the 1.4 million people currently insured by the VHI opt for the basic plan. Most choose more expensive insurance.

Under the BUPA scheme, more expensive insurance requires buying into the company's Cash Plan. This system charges older people substantially more than younger people. The BUPA Gold Plan, the most comprehensive scheme, costs £177.73 for a person aged under 18, rising to £705.60 for someone aged 55 and older. The VHI is accusing

ing system. The non-profitmaking company claims that the arrival of BUPA is the first step to Americanstyle health insurance, which bases premiums on a person's age. The VHI, now almost 40 years old, says its insurance scheme will collapse without the support of

younger members. A spokeswoman for BUPA Ireland said that its products were designed for the Irish market. She

BUPA of driving "a coach and said the company was confident four" through the community ratof any legislation. It had submitted its plans to the Department of Health for examination.

BUPA is facing tough opposition as the VHI is an arm of the Department of Health. The sole shareholder is the Health Ministry. which also appoints the board. In May. Brian O'Shea, the junior Health Minister, said that the Government would change the legislation if community rating was

Nomen k said the company was confident threatened. "Community rating that it would not be found in breach!" has served the Irish people too well over a long time to allow any interference with it to be tolerated. he said.

A BUPA spokesman in London said the company was waiting to see the outcome of deliberations by the Department of Health. We have to take one step at a time. We have not yet been outlawed. We did understand that there would be questions raised. But we are sur-

## All a little girl wanted from Santa in 1911

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

Apart from asking Santa to

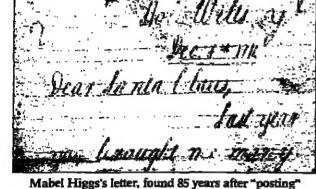
chocolates and a rattle for her

The letter came to light

singed by a hot cinder in one A LETTER that Santa Claus never received has fluttered place but otherwise intact. down the chimney of a country "remember the very poor children in the slums", she cottage 85 years after it was "posted" there by nine-year-old Mabel Higgs. On December 8, 1911, she asked for a story book, a postcard album, a box of

pushed her beautifully composed request on four pages of an exercise book up the flue in

new baby sister. when Peter Hulbert cleaned her bedroom. There it remained hidden among the out the chimney and cast-iron fireplace in what is now his sticks from jackdaws' nests,



Post Office elves keep children's hopes alive

replied to 750,000 children who wrote to Santa Claus this year at his grotto in Reindeer Land (Michael Horsnell

Children have been send-ing him their Christmas lists, usually via the chimney or mantlepiece, since the early part of last century. But only since 1963 has the Post Office helping with his

Staff in Belfast deal with

the replies, warning children to be askeep when Santa calls.

The last posting date for requests was December 11. Yesterday a spokesman said that children were no more demanding now than in years past. In this month's postbag was a letter from a girl whose bicycle had been stolen. She wanted it back and a new one for the thief. Another girl sent her father's

CV and asked Santa to give

during renovations at Bram-ble Conage in Holt. Wiltshire. In copperplate writing, Ma-Dear Santa Claus

Last year you brought me many nice presents and I think you were very kind indeed. I expect you would like to know what I should like you to bring me this year. Well, I should like you to bring me a storybook, a postcard album, a box of chocolates and a

We have a little baby and we would like you to bring her a rattle that will blow.

I hope you will remember the very poor children in the slums and in the large towns. I might stay awake for some time to see you come in our bedroom to put the things in my stocking the night you come. Our house is on the

With much love, I remain your little friend, Mabel.

Lee Hulbert, who wants Lego and Connect from Father Christmas, said: "I think Mabel's letter is good. It taught me more about Christmas and wrote to Santa because of it. Christmas is good because Jesus was born then and I get a few of the chocolates on the Christmas tree."

Mabel Higgs was born in 1902 and died in 1979. Her father was an engine driver and her mother a housewife. Her only child, Wendy Haner, 54, said last night: "I was very touched to hear about this letter. My mother was a lovely person. This letter seems very in keeping with what she was ike as an adult.

"It's furny to see how things want a lot more these days."

### Tamarin bounces back from the brink

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIONISTS are winning the battle to save the golden lion tamarin. Eight hundred of the rare, squirrelsized monkeys are now alive in the wild. Twelve years ago, the gold-

en lion tamarin was thought to be heading for extinction. But captive breeding programmes at centres such as London Zoo, together with reintroduction into the Atlantic forests of Brazil, have managed to turn the tide. Garo Batmanian, director of the World Wide Fund for Nature office in Brazil, said

yesterday that the monkeys,

which sport a reddish-gold coat, were the wildlife success

story of 1996.

He added: "Now we have a new challenge, to double the size of the tamarin's habitat over the next 30 years in order to ensure the long-term viability of this species in the

The international effort to save Leontopithecus rosalia follows the steady destruction of its forest habitat, which once covered a million square kilometers.

It is down to less than 2 per cent of its original size and what is left is highly fragmented: the tamarin's main reserve, Poco das Antas Biological, is only a few miles north of Rio de Janeiro. The area remains under threat of dearance for agriculture and

The species, which eats fruit and insects, has been saved by an international



The golden lion tamarin was badly affected by the destruction of its forest habitat

collaboration headed by the National Zoo in Washington DC and centres in Brazil and Europe. Jo Gipps, director of London Zoo, said that they had been breeding tamarins in captivity as part of a conservation project for more than ten years.

Those reintroduced in Brazil are genetically screened by the Washington team from zoo stocks around the globe. A key to the success has been

JOSIE RUSSELL, the girl who survived

the brutal attack that killed her mother

and sister, celebrated Christmas and her

own painstaking recovery by joining a

She and her classmates from the small village school in Goodnestone, Kent, sang carols and performed the Russian nativity

school carol concert yesterday.

their acclimatisation in Brazilian-type conditions in Washington. Dr Gipps said the captively bred tamarins were now being reintroduced into wild groups. "The best way to learn what a dangerous snake is, what is good to cat and what is not, is from another, wild, golden lion

Mr Batmanian said scientists put at 2,000 the number of wild golden lion tamarins

needed to sustain the species survival into the 21st century. Jose Luis Camargo, an cologist at the main reserve, said yesterday: "We have isolated forest patches here and we are planning to build vegetation corridors so that the monkeys can move about and find suitable mates". The researchers plan to double the areas of protected foresi by working in co-operation

play Baboushka. Josie, who was left for dead after the attack as she walked home could mouth the words and it was

with local farmers.

Recovering Josie joins carol concert

with her mother and sister five months

ago, has had intensive therapy to restore

Yesterday she played the part of a peasant in the school production put on

for parents in parish church. Shaun-

Russell, 45, who is returning to Wales where he and his wife Lin, 45, brought up

### Ladybird becomes contract killer

BY NICK NUTTALL

LADYBIRDS could soon be enlisted by farmers and gardeners in their fight against aphids. Scientists have discovered a way of using them to spread a fungus that is harm-less to the ladybirds but dead-

ly to the aphids. Aphids such as greenfly and blackfly bring misery to rose cultivators and cost farmers millions of pounds each year. Researchers plan to coat large numbers of ladybirds with the fungal spores and dispatch them into fields and gardens at critical times of the year, such as spring.

Researchers are also isolating pheromones produced by ladybirds to attract mates. It is hoped to use them, perhaps as sprays, to attract spore-carrying ladybirds more efficiently to all parts of a field.

Helen Roy, one of the scientists behind the research, said that gardeners may soon be buying dead freeze-dried aphids laden with fungal spores and a tub of live ladybirds from their garden centres. "All you would do is moisten the aphid to release the spores and pop in the ladybirds, who then pick them up before releasing them into the garden," she said.

The discoveries have been made by scientists at Nottingham University and Rothamsted, the government-funded research station at Harpenden. Hertfordshire. Ms Roy, of Rothamsted, said that the fungus Erynia neoaphidis stuck to the skins of applies. using mucus, then burrowed into them, killing them within four days.

fantastic. I had wondered why the hymn sheets for Baboushka were lying in the

lounge at home. I was surprised and

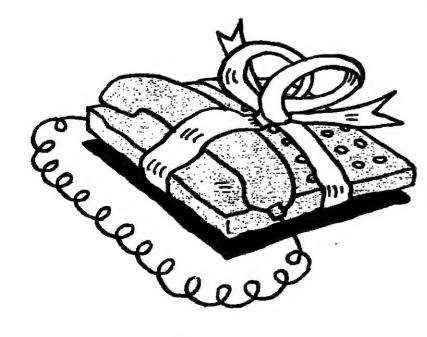
pleased by that."

□ Kent police were still interviewing

Robert Friar, 35. an unemployed local

man, last night about the murders of Mrs

## AND REMEMBER FOLKS, FREE MINUTES AREN'T JUST FOR CHRISTMAS.



Commitment. That's what you get with Mercury-A commitment to provide you with better prices. And not just at Christmas either. As a Mercury SmartCall or UK-Call customer, you get free

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

minutes 365 days a year. Which could add up to 2 hours of free national weekend minutes every month. Call us now on Freecall 0500 500 366 and enjoy free minutes every day. Not just at Christmas.



d to your bill at the Meseury National Weekend Rate. All calls include a 3.5p commence charge. For a quarterly fee you can said SmartCall (£5.75) or UK-Call (£3.75) to

**New TES** editor is appointed

THE next editor of The Times Educational Supplement was named yesterday as Caroline St John-Brooks. She will re-place Patricia Rowan, who retires in April. Dr St John-Brooks edited

the education forum in The Sunday Times before becoming assistant editor of The Times Educational Supplement (TES) in 1990. She left in 1994 to become administrator for educational research and innovation at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in

Sir Edward Pickering. chairman of Times Supple-ments, said: We had an impressive shortlist, but with her previous TES experience and recent three years studying education practice and policy around the world, Caroline St John-Brooks led the

Mrs Rowan, a former member of the Sunday Times Insight team, joined the TES as a sub-editor in 1972 and became editor in September 1989. Average weekly sales were 128,400 last year.

#### England at war: how the other half feasted

CHRISTMAS 1643, and the Civil War was at its height. The Earl and Countess of Bath, however, decided that they would drink and make merry during the festive sea-

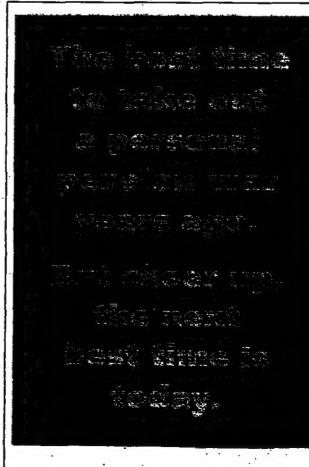
Henry, the 5th earl, and his wife, Rachel, were able to impress their guests with exot-ic food and spices from dis-tant lands. To ensure the feasts at Tawstock House. near Barnstaple in Devon, were convivial, they stocked their cellars with more than 200 gallons of wine and beer.

The details of 17th-century life in one of the country's grand houses have been unearthed by Dr Todd Gray, a history lecturer at the University of Exeter.

Most of the staples — haunches of beef, mutton, venison and game - would have been available locally. he said. But the dried fruit and spices would have been obtained from the port of Bristol. They included currants at £3 9s 9d; 6lbs of almonds at 12s; 1lb of mace at 16st and ginger at 2s 6d.

The cooks would have prepared pastry dishes in advance, including blackbird, guinea fowl, turkey and hare pies. The household also ate huge amounts of oysters.

Dr Gray discovered the accounts, thought to have been lost when the house burnt down in 1787, in the archives of Kent County Council. They showed that the earl and countess spent more ordinary workers lived on £20.



Get that pension sorted, call us today.



0345 95 95 95



spplier of Leah midrug told pram friend-

den aled by pinor

arol concert



direct

Life sentence to begin with questions about girl

## Women's knife attacker is suspect in murder case

A MILKMAN given three life sentences yesterday for knife attacks on two women is to be questioned by detectives about the unsolved murder of a

teenage schoolgirl. Colin Ash-Smith, 28, abducted his first victim from outside her home, stabbed her in the neck and back and tried to rape and strangle her. Three years later he forced another woman into a factory yard, slashed her throat and stabbed her 16 times.

He was sentenced at the Old Bailey after admitting attempted murder, kidnapping, attempted rape and causing grievous bodily harm.

He will be questioned about the murder of Claire Tiltman. 15, who was stabbed to death in January 1993 in a dark alley at Greenhithe, Kent, 200 yards from where Ash-Smith attacked one of the women. Detective Superintendent Nick Biddiss, who is leading the murder inquiry, said outwant to talk to him again about her murder. He is central to our inquiries."

'Ash-Smith was at Claire's party three days before she was killed. He attended her funeral with his mother, a close family friend. Diane Ash-Smith resigned as Mayor of Swanscombe and Greencharged in October 1995. Claire's mother, Lin, is con-



vinced that Ash-Smith is the murderer. "At least now he will not be able to hurt anyone else," she said vesterday In court Ash-Smith was

described as a dangerous fan-tasist who worshipped the comic-strip hero Superman. The rented bedroom he shared with his girlfriend was stacked with pornography, war game magazines and more than 350 science fiction videotapes. When he carried out his attacks he wore a Superman T-shirt.

Five days before Christmas in 1988 he grabbed a 27-year-old cleaner outside her home and dragged her for a mile and half to waste ground in Swanscombe. He told her: "I have a gun and a knife. Don't scream or I'll kill you."

a youth had approached a

dealer at the club and bought

The judge said: "I am satisfied that Raquel's night-

club was known among the

drugs. I have heard evidence

from the then manager that he was not aware of this. If that is

was the result of wilful

The head of security at the

problem. The appointment of

a man with such a bad

was made to stop the supply of

drugs in these premises.
"I make no findings against

any individual. But collective-

ly the management has a far

greater responsibility for these

tragic events than any of you

young people."
Miss Betts slipped into a coma at her home in Latching-

don. Essex, from which she

never emerged. Her life-sup-

port system was switched off

The judge added: "Some of

those young people who take Ecstasy fool themselves into

believing that there is no risk

that it will harm them. The

truth is unfortunately that, if

the drug is taken, there is a

Drug-dealing was a "cal-lous" trade and should always

merit as lengthy a jail sentence

as possible, he said, but he

accepted that Smith had not

bought the drugs for financial

later praised the judge and said: "I am not after blood. I

just wanted to find out the

whole story. I think the judge has acted with great fortitude

and foresight. He has been able to gauge the part Smith has played.

Miss Betts's father, Paul, 50,

possibility that it will kill."

five days later.

the drugs on his behalf.

Murder suspect Colin Ash-Smith and Claire Tiltman with the four-inch knife and repeatedly plunged it into the ground next to her face while he tried to rape her. He also forced her to pose for indecent

photographs.
Robert Fischel, for the prosecution, said that Ash-Smith boasted to his victim that he had "raped and murdered a number of women in London. But he only did it once a year and hated the sight of blood". He then stabbed her in the neck and tried to strangle ber with a school tie, which snapped as she lost consciousness. Ash-Smith left her for dead after stabbing her five

times in the back. When police asked him if he had meant to kill her, he replied: "Well, I suppose so." In October 1991 he abducted Charlotte Barnard, a care

Greenhithe. He cut her across the throat with a flick knife then forced her into a factory yard, where he stabbed her 16 times in the back and hands as she fought to protect herself.

Miss Barnard, who has since moved abroad, collapsed and held her breath to convince him that she was dead. After walking away he took his girlfriend for a night out. When police arrested him

assault plans. In a diary he had written an account of the first attack, which he described as his "masterpiece". The court was told that psychiatrists at Broadmoor considered that his schiznid personality condition was untreatable.

they found notes of four

Passing sentence, Mr Jus-tice Wright said that Ash-Smith should not be eligible for parole for at least 15 years. He told him: "From your late adolescence you have been driven by abnormal urges of a violent and sexual nature and those urges have for many years led you to fantasise about aggressive and sadistic

"It is eminently plain you are an appallingly dangerous man . . . You have no real understanding or remorse for your behaviour.

"You are far too dangerous to be at large. Whether you will ever cease to be a danger must be a matter of considerable doubt."



Lucia Crichton-Miller, centre, at the funeral of her father, Sir Laurens van der Post, in Chelsea vesterday

## Prince pays last respects to mentor

THE Prince of Wales led mourners at the funeral of his friend and mentor. Sir Laurens van der Post, yesterday. The Prince comforted family members at the service at Christ Church, Chelsea, for the South African-born writer and explorer who was his "spiritual guru" and godfather to Prince William.

The handwritten card on the Prince's wreath read: "For Dear Laurens. With everlasting gratitude and affection always. Charles." Sir Laurens died peacefully, aged 90, at his home in London in the early hours of Monday morn-ing, after his heart failed. The Prince had visited him three hours before his death and had planned a ninetieth birthday party for him at Highgrove, his country home in Gloucestershire. last

Friday.
The Prince entered the church with Sir Laurens's daughter, Lucia Crichton-Miller. Ten minutes later, after a choral prelude, pallbearers brought in the coffin covered with roses. Mrs Crichton-Miller led the mourners, followed by Sir

Lawrence Hughes, his American publisher, gave the address, calling Sir Laurens one of the most remarkable human beings of our century". The service was conducted by the Rev Thomas Hiney, a chaplain at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. He described Sir Laurens as a visionary, poet, soldier, sage, an inspiration and explorer of

land and the human spirit. cremation service was held after the service at Putney Vale, southwest



The Prince comforted his friend's close family

## Supplier of Leah Betts drug told to warn friends

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A STUDENT who admitted helping to supply Leah Betts with the Ecstasy tablet that killed her was told to warn his friends about the drug's dangers when he was given a twoyear conditional discharge

Mr Justice Kay told Stephen Smith, 19, of Basildon, Essex There is something you can do within the community to help - that is to go back among your student friends and to spread the message among them as to just how dangerous Ecstasy is."

Smith's former best friend, Steven Packman, 18, from Laindon, Essex, was told that he would face a retrial over his alleged part in supplying the tablet which Miss Betts took at her eighteenth birthday party in November 1995. The jury had been discharged after it failed to reach a verdict.

Sarah Cargill and Smith's girlfriend, Louise Yexley, both received police cautions after admitting their part in the chain of friends which supplied Miss Betts.

The judge criticised the management of Raquel's the nightclub in Basikion where four tablets were bought for Miss Betts and Miss Cargill. Smith, the court was told, said



taking Ecstasy at party

### Youth found guilty of Mills attack

was found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm to John Mills, 58, husband of Barbara Mills, the Director of Public Prosecutions. The 17-year-old, who cannot be named, was also found guilty of robbery by Knightsbridge Crown young as a regular source of Court. He was remanded into

#### Professor killed

Professor Keith Ruddock, 57, the estranged husband of Joan Ruddock, the Labour club has given evidence that he knew only too well of the MP, died after being struck by a car in south London. He was Professor of Biophysics criminal record only serves to demonstrate how little effort at Imperial College, London.

### Budgen fined

A supermarket has been fined £23,000 after a woman died after being knocked over by a faulty automatic door. Phyllis Johnson, 79, hit her head as she fell at the Budgen store in Fakenham, Norfolk.

#### Bail refused

Roisin McAliskey, 25, the pregnant daughter of Berna-dette McAliskey, is to spend Christmas in prison after bail was again refused. She faces charges over a British barracks bombing in Germany.

#### Firework ban

Ministers have imposed an immediate ban on the sale of aerial shells and maroons, the type of mortar-launched firework responsible for the death of two people at bonfire parties last month.

#### Damages appeal

South Yorkshire Police are to appeal against a £201,000 High Court damages award to John McCarthy, 35, of Liverpool, whose balf-brother died in the Hillsborough football stadium disaster.





#### MGM E-180 VIDEO TAPE 4-PACK

12 hours recording time. **Total Separate** Selling Price £15. In-store Price £6.99.





#### Scotch Esso VIDEO TAPES-PACK Total Separate Selling

in-store Price £799.

Price £13.47.

#### BBC 15 hours recording time. Total Separate Selling Price £18.45.

MGM VIDEO TAPE 4-PACK 16 hours recording time. Total Separate Selling Price £20.



#### VIDEO TAPE 6-PACK 18 hours recording time. Total Separate Selling Price £24.

MATSUI

VIDEO TAPE 9-PACK 27 hours recording time. Total Separate Selling

Scotch



Price £30.



MATSUL

Scotch

VIDEO TAPE 9-PACK 27 hours recording time. Total Separate Selling



OPEN EVERY DAY UNTIL CHRISTMAS

## Patient saved by phone call

SURGEONS saved the life of a patient after receiving instructions on how to carry out an operation in a telephone call to heart specialists. Doctors on the Isle of Wight had no time to transfer the 60-

year-old victim of a stabbing

accident to the mainland and

were forced to call Southamp-ton for help. Brian Smith, who had fallen on a knife while walking upstairs peeling an apple, was rushed to St Mary's Hospital in Newport with internal bleeding.

Peter Donaldson, one of the surgeons, said: "It was an

Christmas gift. It makes both giver and receiver Choose from a range of models and

finishes starting from around £76. AUSTIN REED - BENTALUS - SELECTED BURTON MENSWEAR - HARRODS - HOUSE OF PRASER -TOWN LEWIS PARTINESSHIP - SELERIDGES - OR FOR

unusual injury but sending the patient to Southampton would have meant a delay of 90 minutes and in this case it could have been crucial. We did not know what extra damage would be caused by airlifting him and the ferry would have taken too long."
Mr. Smith had a small hole

in the front of his heart caused by the blade of the knife. "We telephoned Southampton where this type of operation would not have posed any problem," Mr Donaldson said. "The doctors gave me some general advice about what to expect and the problems we could face." Mr Smith was given 16

pints of blood during the operation. "It was a fairly simple procedure in the end -I put my finger in the hole and my colleague stitched it up," Mr Donaldson said.

## حكذا بن الاحل

## Only Currys bring you all this



TELEVISIONS INTEREST AVE # £100 FREE OPTION\*

SONY 29" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound **IV** with Fastext

CURRYS PRICE

£100 ALSO AVAILABLE AS A PACKAGE WITH SONY 4-Head Super Tri-Logic NRCAM Stureo Video with VideoPlus Model SLVE710. Was £1399. 200 :1199

10 :149 9

The state of the s

INTEREST FREE OPTION' ON TV/VIDEO PACKAGES SONY



VOUCHER PACKAGE PRICE £70 £479

LOWEST EVER PRICE ON THIS MATSULVIDEO

MATSUI transmini Long Play Widoo with Reports Control long play increases recording time of our tapes. Rodel VZA1100. In-state Price £149.99. £ 139.99

CD HI-FI SYSTEMS SAVE # £50 AIWA co Mini NHFI w Multiplay - plays up to 3 ( m Massive 180 watts (RMS)

power output.
Model NS0999 MARK II.
In-store Price £449.99.
18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OFTION-\* ( = 2 **VOUCHER PRICE** AIWA OHE

the state of the s with Remaile Mathiplay - plays up to 1 CDs, Model 21800. MULTIMEDIA PRINTER WITH SAVE # £300



FREE PRINTER

CYNVE.

8 speed CD-ROM.

Model P100. In-score Price 1999. PACKARD BELL Istal Penti PISO Belitimedia PC Sub MANTIGE hard drive. Model 92370. Was (1289 9 MONTHES WILESEST FIRST OFTION EXTRA SAVING
COMPAQ internet Ready 128h
Peritum Processor Buildingus Pr
Ready Table
Peritum Vir 1889 Perstum Processor Muldimedia PC National Processor Mulded 4110 Was 1699 Was 1699 Was 1699 Perstum Processor 1699 Perstum Processor 1698 Contract Proce PACKARD BELL Persons PIZONING Instarrant Ready PC
SMB EDGR.1/Gr band drive.
Robel EXCRUTIVE 90330.
Was £1599.

ree 8T initiates by redemption. Credited to your next available 8T phone bill at standard call weekend rate. Ask in-store for details Office ends 24/12%.

EXAMPLE OF INTEREST FREE
OPTION ON SELECTED PRODUCTS

APPLIANCES

WITH 2-DAY

AVAILABLE Soft exceptional solute, look for the wide selection of superb models and offers and offers (GUARANTEE) Retail Ltd.

NEW MOCLADIS BONUS

(מונים באומים לימו קים

OUR BIGGEST EVER CHOICE OF CHRISTMAS GIFTS OVER 2000 GIFTS TO TAKE AWAY NOW!

Microsom Model M161M

Price 074,99.

£10

:5

SANYO

Q.S cust Coopers M Model EMS102

£69.99

£99,99

<u>ee**Q**3</u>

ee113

MOULINEX Hand Blander Detachable foot for easy cleaning. Model ROOP. Was \$14.99. SALE PRICE.

CARLTON
Hand Miner
3 speed settings.
Model HM3.

CARLTON

MATERIAL Jung Kretch

M Auto switch off.

M Assistance

Material

CARLTON

TEFAL
Cordina Filter Jug
Kettle
Gold element reducat
scale.
Model
980781
GOLD.
286

CARLTON
ECHANICS
2-Silve Toxister with
Traditional Curron
Fleish
Model Cultur's Prect
C300.
Was 13.99. £8.99

CARLTON
2-Sites Control
Teaster
Variable browning.
Model 212

BLACK & DECKER

CARLTON

10-9070 Mice \$6.99. £4.99

BRAUN

Spervolume Tular Habityre
in 1200 wests power.
in Diffusior and nozzle
in 2 heart/speed settings.
Model CAMEN'S MINCE
PROTRUSTED.

REMINGTON
Will The Bouncy Styles
a 12 Veloto rollers.
a 2 bount attachments.

# Styler. Model 5050

£1999

£2899

HAND-HELD CLEANERS SAVE # £12

PERSONAL CARE



£28995 SATURN CAMERAS AND BINOCULARS

KODAK Advanced Photo System Caracia Pocial free, Medal AZVANITIX 2008 MSUNG 7x 25 Compact
8inoculari
Green costed optics.
Model 7x 25.
Was \$79.99. --:39, £5999 CHINON BOOKERS Advence Photo System Camera CANON 35mm Compac Camera



BRAVEHEART SENSE RIVERDANCE AND SENSIBILITY £1399 £ 13.99 KEYBOARDS SAVE # 7 CASIO Mini Keyboard

II 32 mini Keys.

II 10 song bank tunes.

Model SAS, in-store Proc Ed-99
PRE TRIOR BOOK Minis stocks i.e..

**TAPES** MGM e-mo 4-pack Video Tape n 12 hours recording SCOTCH E-180 3-pack Video 1 9 hours recording Scotch time. Total Separate Selling Price £15. In-store Price £6.99. time.
Total Separate Selling
Price £13,47.
In-store Price £7.99.
TEXAS **₽**. 3 HALF PRICE £6.69 KARAOKE SAVE # 20 MATSUI Storeo Cassette widi Earacta Panction Single cassette deck. Model K78502. Was (39.99 ARBITER Karaolin System
Single cassette deck.
Model Ki99, Was 659.99.
HALF PRICE MINIO HTS
PACE MURABLE
Ask for details.

٤10

10142 \$88145 (Sam-Tjor Mon-Fri. Sam-E30pm Sec. 13am-4pm Son) Delivery charges from (2.25 Part of OSG 4erasi Ltd.

and lets you take advantage of any credit effer in-stare. See in-

return the gift, snapens with its remigit before 4 housey 1997, for softwar and pre-recorded without

£49.99

IN-STORE PC SAME DAY
UPGRADE BI-HOME
SERVICE SERVICENG
Profesional
INSTAllation for

in stock ready to assess the sawy at the sawy at cond. We will be heppy to carry your purchase to your car. RAM and multimedia into. Ask for details.

2 DAY DELIVERY TAKE IT
MONDAY TO
FRIDAY
Grosse AMPRA.

A DELIVERY
MOST diests are
in stock ready to

Choose AMPIA.
Plus professional
systallation service.
Add for details.

ALL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS OVER £20 AND ALL SHAVERS OVER £40 WITH VOUCHER £(5) O EXAMPLE OF BUY NOW PAY LATER ON SELECTED PRODUCTS CORRYS DIRRECT
For direct docrategy
delivery Freephone
6500 304686 or fax
Advantage
Ad

Pay 20% deposit and nothing some until DECEMBER 1997. Then either settle the balance by your first payment date helds no interest or appry the balance with interest by monthly intellments e.g.— Cash price \$219.99. Deposit 564. Minimum monthly can june 24 ct. 25. Legislat 194 in 1967. Total credit pairs C294.1 MP 27.95; [variable] by direct elebit. Otter applies when you apply for a Carrys Prenter Advantage Card, not available to cash purchases. Subject to states. dicates must be 14 or over (2) in it, Ireland).

LAUNDRY SAVE A TOTAL OF £150 HOTPOINT 1000 Spin 'Aquarius De Luxa'. E Amuarius wash system **SALE PRICE** 

WHITE CHRISTMAS\*

FREE

GIFTS FOR THE KITCHEN

SHARP

MATSUI

£109.9

MOULINEX

MOULINEX

Model 470. Sale resc. 157.50. 37.99

MORPHY RICHARDS

RUSSELL HOBBS

SWAN
Green Gift Set
Gordless Jug kertile
and 2-silice towards

Price Volice Price 644.58. £39.99

SWAN 4-stee Cookwall Toaster Model X08P1.

MORPHY RICHARDS

and Addition of the Addition o

BLACK & DECKER

Tanbe Destinater
2 syssel power broat.
Model HCG31M.
Was 52497.
Was 52497.
Was 6259. CHRYS PROC.

E31.49

DIRT DEVIL.
Hand-Held
Halling Columns
II 7.5 metre cord.
II 240 wast motor.
Model DD1532.
Was 649.99.
Hall FROIS
Ask for details.
£37.99

PHILL Ladyshove is 2 triesmort. Is Charge indicator light. Model 2750. Was £29.99. SALE PRICE £26.99

Mains/Reclampeable
Shawer
a 1 hour charge time.
at Rotary action.
Model SALE MICE
RROSOO.
Was £79.99. £39.99

PHILISHAVE

HITACHI

£2299

£3699

WHITE KNIGHT 7th Tissable Dryen DISHWASHERS £160



m 8 programmes. Model DF23. Was £449:95. Was £349.99 10 MONTHS INTEREST Ask for details.

SALE PRICE

160 269.

REFRIGERATION # £100



FREE SAUCEPANS COOKING With all cooking products over £600 leacheds below 1100 SAVE # £150

FRIGIDAIRE SOON SOUN AS SEEN IN BEC GOOD FOOD MAGAZINE £100 LEISURE SON SOLD GE COME in Green 100 £699.99 CANNON 60cm Stot-in Gas Cooler Pour Dualte oven.

Auto programminie 120 E 7999

Max 2009-99-10 Moderness seriemes?

Max 2009-99-10 Moderness seriemes.

Gree ends 24th December 1956 STOVES 50cm Slot-in Gas Cooke Finished in Brass and Racing Green

Finished in Brass and Racing Green

Separate over and grill.

Also available in

Blue and Red.

Model NEVVHOME
5026S.

Price Excluding
Trade-in £549.98. HOTPOINT 60cm Stot-In Sector Cooker

1 Halogen zone.
Pull width wurfable brain gefil.
Model EVYTP. Was 6949.99.
12 MONTHS ONTEREST FREE OPTION\* **PRICES** 

ON THE SPOT

WE'LL NEVER BE BEATEN

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL RETAILER

jores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening. Ring Irist-200 ID30 for details of your nearest store, it quotations from Currys, Dept MK, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HF2 7TG. Currys are licensed cardix brokers. Ask in-store for details.

are putting













## God's judgment tries to rekindle hope from remnants of failure



the University Church of St Mary's, Oxford

n the days before Christmas the Church thinks start from within a person,
about judgment. This is with a bit of honesty about
because Christians wish to be ready and worthy to greet their King when he comes at Christmas, and it also linksup with the expectation that Christ will come again, at the end of time, to judge the living and the dead. Thus, in the domestic excitement of Christ's birth, we see the

portrayed as something imposed from outside by a God Who sits in a heavenly court.

readiness to see the good in other people. I once had the privilege of visiting Mother Teresa at work in Calcutta and I felt humbled by the commitment and self-sacrifice of her team of workers in trying to bring some dignity

to the extreme poor of the city. ultimate purpose of God.

I was forced to face the On the surface, judgment is question of whether I could have done this work myself and found myself overawed and daunted. Sometimes we However, from the spiritual feel judged by other people's Crea

The Rev Brian Mountford

odness — an act of generosity, self-giving, or courage in adversity - and ask, Why am I not like this? This is awe, and awe is a state of selfknowledge, when a person sees him or herself in the light

The experience of awe, which seems a rather neglect-

life, is to do with fear and admiration. In the Christmas stories, the shepherds were filled with fear when the angel told them of the birth of Jesus and, when the Wise Men arrived to see the infant Christ, they fell down and worshippped him. Why were they overawed? Because they had come face to face with

There is some mysterious ingredient in this timeless story that, in the clamour of the modern world, still has the power to awaken in a person the seriousness of the challenge that love, goodness, truth and beauty makes on

The obverse side of judgment, which is rightly and often emphasised pastorally. is the need for affirmation no one should feel guilty, put down, diminished, undervalued, inadequate. The uncoordinated child may feel God, and they felt judged by

ers, but his ability must be affirmed and he must be helped to fulfil his potential. however limited. The same applies to relationships and to morality: we need affirmation and encouragement in order not to mess up our relationships.

Not all will be saints, but all should strive to be the best they can. And God's underlying affirmation of all people is symbolised at Christmas by the fact that he comes in humility, as an outsider, and temporarily homeless. This means that God's judgment

from goats, and seeing justice done, but about the building and rebuilding of lives, trying to rekindle hope from the shattered fragments of failure. This is perhaps the awesome perspective of Christmas: that it offers a fresh start with a child who shines as a light in the world. offering hope that is not sentimental because it stems from the eternal justice and

> At Your Service, Weekend page II

## Wealthy Catholics are putting Eton before Ampleforth

tory, and believe that the way

LEADING Roman Catholic independent schools are calling for greater support from creasing numbers of wealthy Catholics send their children to other public schools.

Although demand for a Catholic education in the grant-maintained and state sector has never been higher, public schools such as Ampleforth and Downside are concerned that Catholic families are passing them over in favour of a more secular or Anglican education at leading

non-Catholic schools. Two Catholic independent schools, Buckfast Abbey preparatory school in Devon and Belmont Abbey, near Hereford, have already closed, and at Downside, near Bath, num-bers have fallen by a third in

20 years. Eton, which appointed a Catholic chaplain in the early 1980s, now has about 300 Catholic boys compared with just a handful 20 years ago. Mariborough and Epsom have followed Eton's lead in appointing Catholic chap-lains, tapping a hitherto inac-cessible source of pupils.

Father Antony Sutch, Flead Master of Downside, which Chamberlain: he orges charges £3,800 a term, saidthat Catholic parents were keen to be accepted by the Establishment. There is the idea that we can now get into. Eton and hang on to our souls at the same time," he said. Bur he was also being "bombard-ed" by non-Catholics desperate to send their children to a Catholic school because of its

Father Sutch criticised the "league-table mentality" among some parents. "People don't seem to believe that a fully Catholic education is of as much value as league-table results," he said. "Schools are

being judged by league tables rather than by ethos." Laity and dergy are alarmed by the trend. They in the independent sector, some of the most loyal parents at Ampleforth, where fees are £12.555 a year, are Anglican. want to arrest the large decline More than one in ten of its 644 in Mass attendance, highlightpupils are non-Catholic, and ed in the 1997 Catholic Direc-

to do this is through the bate has taken on an added urgency in recent weeks in the light of the moral campaign Catholic education system. Father Leo Chamberlain. Head Master of Ampleforth College, the Benedictine publaunched by Frances Law-rence, widow of the murdered lic school in North Yorkshire, headmaster Philip Lawrence. has criticised bishops for say-In a recent address to the ing "all too little" about the importance of Catholic Catholic grant-maintained schools conference, Father Chamberlain said that it was part of the responsibility of Catholic schools to ensure that

> campaign were lasting. The steeply rising rates of divorce, the abandonment of marriage, the campaign for an active homosexual lifestyle to be regarded as of equal legitimacy to heterosexual, the discovery of serious moral failures within the Church all this contributes now to a sense of crisis in which we fully participate," he said.

the results of Mrs Lawrence's

He gave warning of a danger that Catholics would lose their way because of the new openness. "Schools are rightly perceived as standing at the centre of national concerns because it is there, after the family, that the shaping of personal futures lies," he said.
"Catholics want their own schools so that our vision of man as made in God's image may be passed to another

He said that parents' wishes had to be respected, but referred to the Church's policy that Catholic children in non-Catholic schools should still be given a proper Christian education. "It is difficult to conceive how this can be done as well in the circumstances of a secular school."



The Rev Ermal Kirby is the first black Methodist to be appointed a district chairman, the equivalent of a bishop. Mr Kirby, 45, who was born in Antigua, is to head the London North East District, which extends from the capital to Cambridgeshire and the Essex coast. He is currently a tutor in ethics at Queen's College, Birmingham

#### Hume calls for hope in the face of pessimism

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

CARDINAL Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, yesterday urged Christians to shake off the prophets of doom. In a series of Christmas messages to the 4.4 million Roman Catholics in England and Wales, he said that, despite widespread unease in soci-

ety, there were signs of hope. He said in the Catholic Herald: "It is fashionable at the moment to be gloomy. There is widespread anxiety about economic stability, unemployment, the future of Europe, the quality of education, health and family life. No aspect of life, the Church included, escapes the pessi-

mist's pen. And in The Tablet he suggested that unease had been fuelled "most powerfully, perhaps, by the appalling tragedy of Dunblane". But he said that this sentiment could, paradoxically, be seen as a sign of hope and of health.

## Overnight cabin case only inc. p&p (£15.00 off MIRRP) The Times in association with Equator

schools. Yesterday he said:

There has been a trend for

some secular schools, particu-

larly in the private sector, to

offer particular arrangements for Catholics. But a school

with a Catholic chaplaincy is

not the same as a Catholic

school. And the opportunity to

go to Sunday Mass is not the same as an education im-

mersed in the culture, spiritu-

al values and moral codes of

lies are choosing a non-Catho-

lic education for their children

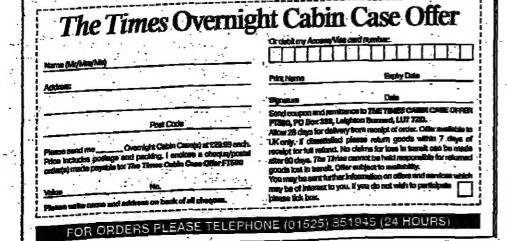
While more wealthy Catho-

the Church."

Luggage, gives you the opportunity to buy this stylish overnight cabin case from their Executive collection for only £29.99 including p&p, a third off the mmp of £45.00. Specially developed for today's busy execu-

tive, whether travelling by air, sea or land, this suitably designed case performs to the convenient standards required by the regular busipess traveller. Available in a black tear prooffabric, the case features a stundy carry handle and detachable shoulder strap, with a front

gusseled pocket including an organiser section with mobile phone holder, three credit card pockets and four pen holders. There is also a back zip compartment with two folio sections. a main garment area with inside zip pocket and a back double zip pocket which can be used to slip over your trolley case. Measuring 43cm (length) x 32cm (height) x 17cm (width), it is an acceptable size for hand loggage on most airlines. To order your overnight cabin case for only £29.99 post coupon and remittance or phone our order hottine.





In an uncertain world of rising and falling interest rates, The Promise gives investors the reassurance of rate guarantees until 31 December 1998.

If Northern Rock's mortgage rate changes, we guarantee you that The Promise will never earn less than 1.5% gross below it.

We also promise that your annual interest will never fall below a safety net of 5.5% gross p.a.

Interest can be paid either monthly or annually. If you opt for monthly income, then the guarantee is that

The Promise will never earn less than 1.75% gross below Northern Rock's mortgage rate and that your return

% Gross %Ner £100,000 5.60 6.75 6,75 6.50 250,000 5.65 5.32 8.40 9,35

will never fall below 5.25% gross p.a. You have penalty free access up to £5,000 of your money, once in 1997 and once in 1998. And The Promise

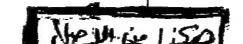
In a climate of rising interest rates, it's a combination that's hard to beat. To take advantage, you'll have to be quick. This is strictly a limited offer, operated exclusively by post.

matures on 31st December 1998.

For full details, call us free any time from 9-5 Monday to Friday, or 10-3 weekends (you can leave a message at other times). 0500 50 5000

**NORTHERN ROCK** 

Northern Rock Building Society. Principal Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL, www.nrock.co.uk Member of the Building Societies Association. Assers exceed £12 billion.



## Eritrea labours to put historic railway back on the tracks

PEASANTS and former guerrillas have scoured the barren hills of Eritrea, collecting the old rails and sleepers from improvised defensive trenches. Rusting steam trains have been brought out of old sheds, burnished, oiled and lovingly They chose the latter. restored. Retired railwaymen have been mobilised. Next month President Afewerki of Eritrea will formally inaugurate the restoration of one of

row-guage railways.

In Mussolini's day, when the Italians ruled Eritrea, steam trains used to puff up the line from the Red Sea port of Massawa through Asmara, the capital, to the Sudanese border. During the 30-year civil war between Ethiopia. an People's Liberation Front, both sides ripped up the rails

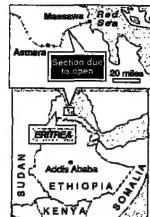
Africa's most spectacular nar-

which annexed the former colony in 1952, and the Eritre-

and steel sleepers to reinforce their dug-outs and positions. The railway, a marvel of engineering, lay in ruins. When Eritrea achieved iniependence three years ago,

an international consortium told the Government that it would cost £250 million to restore the line. There were two options: sell the remaining track and rusting locomotives to the Saudis for scrap: or restore the line themselves.

In August 1995, hundreds were employed to re-lay the sleepers and haul the rails back to the old trackbed.



Wizened old men who once drove and maintained the Italian engines, built in the 1920s and 1930s, were set to work to forge new parts and instruct younger drivers how to operate the old steam engines. Two newer diesel locomotives that have been sitting idle in Asmara were also stripped down and reassem-

are already in operation, and the entire 75-mile section, linking Asmara and Mussawa, is virtually repaired. The project has cost around £3 million. Built in the 1890s, the line, with a gauge of just less than a metre, is one of the most extraordinary feats of colonial engineering. Twisting through gorges and over via-ducts, it climbs almost 7,000ft

The first 30 miles of track

above the hot coastal plain. The line once ran for 221 miles, linking up with the Sudanese rail system. But there is no likelihood of recommissioning the entire stretch: Sudan and Eritrea are at virtual war after the Khar-

A passenger train is pulled by a 440 class locomotive over the Caroben bridge on the Massawa to Asmara line, which was built in the 1890s

toum Government's attempts to destabilise its neighbour by trying to export Islamic fundamentalism.

The railway once owned 18 oil-burning steam engines. They never ran fast: even the recently renovated ones are 25mph. Evelyn Waugh vividly described the Eritrean line in Scoop, poking fun at the trains that lumbered up the mountain so slowly that sengers had time to get off and pick berries on the way. Eritrea's determination to rebuild the line is typical of the self-help philosophy it has invoked to overcome the ravages of the war with Ethiopia.

President Afewerkl, currently on his first visit to Britain since taking office, insisted that his country was not like other Third World nations, demanding Western aid and falling into debt. "We are trying to mobilise our own resources. We have a very

ing." Mr Afewerki said that he preferred to see business partnerships with Western countries and, turning his back on the former Marxist rhetoric of the liberation front he once led, spoke of investment, selfreliance, the private sector's role and his cordial relations with the World Bank and

International Monetary Fund. The President's foreign policy is equally pragmatic when a row blew up with Yemen over the occupation of a small Red Sea island, he agreed to international arbitration. The tribunal is sitting in London and Mr Afewerki says he will

Black Ame in wins place in

HATEL WEST SERVICES FOR

#### Child sex fears halt adverts

Paris: A French advertising campaign for Evian mineral water featuring photographs of naked children has been abandoned after complaints that it could encourage paedophilia (Adam Sage

writes). The campaign sparked pro-tests that it was insensitive after revelations in Belgium about Marc Dutroux, the selfconfessed paedophile kidnap-per. The Dutroux affair has caused deep anxiety in France, where cases of child molesting have since been given widespread publicity.

#### Carl Sagan dies of pneumonia

Seattle: Carl Sagan, 62, the Pulitzer Prize-winning astro-nomer and storyteller who extolled the grandeur and mystery of the universe in lectures, books and on television, has died of pneumonia at a cancer research centre in Seattle. He had been suffering from preleukaemia syndrome, a bone marrow disease. (AP) Obituary, page 19

#### **Burundi Army** 'massacred 500'

Nairobi: Burundi's Tutsidominated Army was said to have massacred up to 500 Hutu civilians in what Amnesty international called a con-tinuation of a "policy of systernatic extermination of a section of population". The rights group said the massacre took place in Butaganza commune on December 3. (AP)

#### Tanker crew hurt

taken ashore suffering from smoke inhalation and minor injuries, but they later recov-ered. Firefighters put out the blaze on the Panamanianregistered vessel. (AFP)

## 'Rich tax' to help

individual and corporate taxpayers in Indonesia with annual incomes of more than £26,000 to contribute an extra 2 per cent, after tax, to a fund to help the poor. (AP)

### **Broadway Britons** stage a tea-party

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITISH thespians might be busy mounting their muchtrumpeted invasion of Broadway but that does not mean they do not have time for tea. Several dozen of Britain's leading actors took a break from storming New York this week to attend a high tea at the stately Players Club in

Gramercy Square Park.
The likes of Elaine Paige. Michael Gambon, Fiona Shaw and Stephanie Beacham donned paper crowns, pulled crackers and munched cucumber sandwiches while bemoaning the excitability of ierican audiences, lack of British news, and inconveniences of the Big Apple.

"I take tea in London, darling, absolutely," said the ir-repressible Paige, who has won acciaim for her performance as the ageing diva Norma Desmond in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Broadway production of Sunset Boulevard. "Tea is the best time of day," she explained.

The unprecedented event was the "drunken inspira-

tion of Nicky Henson, making his Broadway debut as the foppish Lord Goring in Peter Hall's revival of Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband. "In the middle of the first night I said we ought to get all the Brits together." he

The high tea was served at large round tables covered with white tableclothes in the lounge of the Victorian clubhouse beneath a portrait of Edwin Booth, the club's founder and the brother of Abraham Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth.

Another at the party was Jim Dale. He has lived in New York for nearly 20 years and regularly offers visiting British actors tea on his terrace. "I know the feeling when you are all alone in a big city like this," he said.



Paige "tea is the best time of day"

## in Falklands fire The living quarters of an oil tanker was destroyed by a fire off the Falkland Islands. Eight of the 18 Latvian crew were

Indonesian poor Jakarta: President Suharto, who first sought voluntary donations, has now ordered

## No fuel like an old fuel

Delhi: Embarrassed Indian scientists yesterday conceded that they had been hoaxed by a "miracle herbal fuel".

A report tabled in parliament by the Department of Science and Technology said an analysis of the liquid produced by Ponnaiah Ramar Pillai. from the village of Idayankulam in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, showed it to be a mixture of paraffin and

The mixture was intro-

duced at the boiling stage and when the so-called fuel was set on fire, with considerable difficulty it emitted a thick smoke similar to the one emitted when camphor is burnt," the report said. "If it was really fuel, it should have caught fire instantly."

Mr Pillai had initially convinced scientists that he had made a discovery during ex-periments in which he produced fuel after boiling water with secret herb leaves. (AFP)



made no colim, you can get all your warranty money back in ful. †



price, we'll willingly refund the

Teletext Ch.4 P.425

## Black American slang wins place in classroom

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

BLACK American English has been officially recognised as a distinct language in Oakland, California, where black children who speak it are in a majority in schools but consistently achieve belowaverage results.

The move, which was swiftly attacked as lowering standards and "an insult to the cognitive abilities of black children, makes standard English a second language for 28,000 children and offers bonuses to teachers who learn

The Oakland resolution will send ripples throughout the state. It was welcomed by black education officials in Los Angeles, which faces similar problems, but flies in the face of Proposition 209, the measure approved by voters last month to end "affirmative action" programmes.

Stubbornly low scores by black children in English and reading tests have been a simmering racial issue in America's inner cities for decades, blamed by traditionalists on the problem of bringing neighbourhood language to school, and by the authors of the controversial 1994 book The Bell Curve on genetic differences between the races. This week's unanimous vote

by Oakland Unified School District officials gives black urban slang its own name, "Ebonics" — derived from "ebony" and "phonics" - and traces its roots to West Africa

"West and Niger-Congo African language systems form the basis of a distinct language spoken by black Americans historically isolated from isolated from

He goes to work She will be first

Six million dollars

My mother's name is Mary

These are two of my friends who have just come.

han' and walking becomes walkin'.

You're crazy

ery and segregation," the insisted that the move was school district's resolution asserted Critics of the resolution

have accused Oakland officials of mounting a ploy to qualify for extra federal funds for remedial English teaching for blacks on the same grounds that entitle the children of Spanish, Chinese and other foreign immigrants to extra teaching of English as a

foreign language. But Lucella Harrison, president of the school board,

He be goin' to work She-uh be firs

My mame name Mary It's two of my friend,

Six million dellar

they just come

Despite being labelled distinct languages by Oakland officials, standard and "black" English do not have separate vocabular-

ies. Major differences in the latter include a simplified conjugation of the verb "to be" with only the infinitive used in the

present tense (hence he be goin' to work) and only the past participle used in the past tense (viz She been married for a long

Final consonants are also often dropped. Thus hand becomes

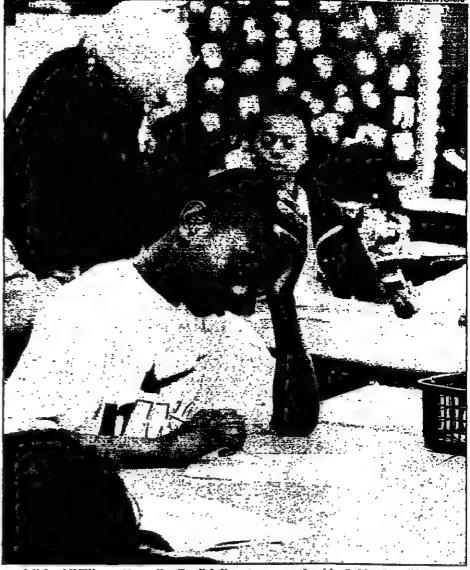
You crazy

aimed simply at helping black pupils who "tune out" at the sound of mainstream English in the classroom. "We tried remedial classes in the 60s and 70s and they did not work," she said. "We must do something different." Seventy-one per cent of Oak-

land's black schoolchildren are in special classes and 64 per cent have been held back at least a year because of poor affairs which Elihu Harris, Oakland's black Mayor, said should be remedied by conrentional means.

"Our commitment is to excellence in education," Mr Harris said, "and we will not tolerate or support any form of substandard English." Other black leaders gave a warning against equating the problems of black pupils with those of immigrant children struggling with a new language.
"I know that Latinos speak a

different language and I know my [black] cousins don't speak a different language," said Professor John McWhorter of the University of California, who is black. "It's an insult to



Michael Williams, 12, studies English literature at a school in Oakland, California

## equal pensions

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

GURKHA veterans in Hong Kong are ready to sue the British Government, which they say cheated them of their pensions for decades.

The Gurkha Veterans' Association, which claims to speak for 85,000 members living in Nepal and 15,000 in Hong Kong, where many are as security guards, accuses Britain of reneging on an agreement struck in 1947 between Britain, India, and Nepal guaranteeing Gurkhas equal pension rights with British soldiers.

British soloiers.

Their lawyer, Eric Urbani, says: The Gurkhas get £15 a month. British soldiers get £475. We want Britain to give that same money to the Gurkhas. If they won't, then they can give British soldiers £15, heard of this fund.

Rifkind: angry about parallel legislature

Chinese

cheating

on colony

BY MICHAEL BINYON

DUPLOMATIC EDITOR

IN UNUSUALLY blunt criticism of Peking, Malcolm Rif-

cheating on its legal com-

mitments to Hong Kong, and

said that plans to activate a parallel legislature before

it gained sovereignty were

There was, he said, no

justification for China to re-place the legislature elected

tative government in Hong Kong and China's basic law in

The message was reinforced

by the summoning of Jiang

Enzhu, the Chinese Ambassa dor, to the Foreign Office on

In a tart comment, Mr Rif-

kind said: "Common sense

suggests that a body chosen by

a hand-picked 'electorate' of 400 is not, in any reasonable

sense, a 'legislature constitut-

ed by election' as required by paragraph 49 of the 1984 Joint Declaration on the colony's

He added that China had solemnly committed itself in

the declaration to co-operate with the British administration until the handover, and

then to be bound by its promise that Hong Kong's legislature would be constitut-ed by elections.

unacceptable.

the territory.

Thursday evening.

and that will be equal." Mr Urbani says that the 1947 agreement contained an annex stating that Gurkhas should receive far less pay and smaller pensions, but that the Nepal Government never signed this deal. A British garrison spokesman in Hong Kong insisted that the agreement was still binding.

Padam Bahadur Guring, a retired lance corporal and president of the Gurkha association, said: "We want once and for all to be told whether we are mercenaries or not."

Mr Urbani also raised the quiestion of an £80 million trust fund, lodged in Britain, "which has mysteriously disappeared". No British Army official in Hong Kong had

## Gurkhas fight for | President fills final Cabinet vacancies

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AFTER a series of last-minute appoint a 14-member Cabinet decisions taken late at night, President Clinton yesterday filled his new Cabinet's final

One went to Andrew Cuomo, son of Mario Cuomo, the former Governor of New York, with whom Mr Clinton had an edgy relationship dur-ing the 1992 Democratic primaries. Mr Cuomo, 39, was nominated as Secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development where, as Assistant Secretary, he

four vacancies.

developed a reputation for spirited enthusiasm that some thought bordered on brash. Mr Clinton made the surprise choice of Federico Pena. his Secretary of Transportation, as Energy Secretary havwith no Hispanics - a move that would have upset a large bloc of Democratic voters. In keeping with his promises to pick a Cabinet that

"looks like America", the President's other choices are black. Alexis Herman, a White House aide, was nominated as Labour Secretary, and Rodney Slater, the federal highway administrator and a political ally from Mr Clinton's home state of Arkansas, will replace Mr Pena as Transportation Secretary.

The second-term Cabinet will have three blacks, one Hispanic, four women and a Republican. The first-term one had four blacks, two Hispanics, three women and no ing realised he was about to Republicans.

## Clinton to improve screening of visitors

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON last night promised to establish a better screening process at the White House after it emerged that he had met a Chinese arms dealer whose firm, only months later, was implicated in smuggling weapons to

America. Mr Clinton said he was disappointed by the encounter, during a coffee morning. since it was "clearly inappropriate". At the same time, presidential aides struggled to explain the visit in February by Wang Jun, head of a large investment conglomerate that is owned by the Peking

Mr Clinton said there were many thousands of visitors to the White House, but a better way of screening them had to be developed. He added that he remembered nothing about the visit, but "nothing inappropriate came from it on the part of government action".

The encounter was revealed as the Justice Department launched a far-reaching investigation into the growing controversy surrounding questionable Asian contributions to the President and Hillary Clinton and the Democratic

A task force appointed by Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, issued a series of subpoenas to the White House and the Democratic National Committee, seeking all records relating to many party fundraisers and donors central to the deepening scandal that appears to be rapidly clouding Mr Clinton's second term. The Clintons' legal defence fund, set up two years ago to defray the costs of contesting myriad allegations.

More than \$2 million (£1.2 million) in debt over Whitewater, the Paula Jones sexual harassment case and other inquiries into the Clintons, the fund this week revealed for the first time that it had returned \$640,000 in dubious donations solicited before the election by Charles Yah Lin Trie, a long-standing friend of the Clintons. It was Mr Trie, a regular visitor to the White House, who secured the invitation for Mr Wang.



# You can't buy better this Christmas

MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY & UNTIL APM WEEKDAYS RING FREE ON 0500 425 425 FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE



Our 90 day money back guarantee.



We know it's difficult buying Christmas presents for men. After all, how many pairs of socks can one man wear?

So if you're having problems with your Christmas shopping, may we suggest the Braun Flex Integral shaver?

it's the only shaver to include a 90 day money back guarantee. So if he doesn't like it - for whatever reason - we'll happily take it back.

We're pretty sure he'll appreciate it, though.

After all, it's the best shaver we've ever mad Its unique pivoting head is specifically designed to follow the contours of the face. The result is our closest shave yet.

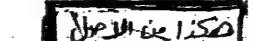
And, with models ranging from £49.99 to £119.99, it should be easy enough to find one that suits him.

Of course, you could play safe and get him another pair of socks this year.

But just try returning them to the shop after 90 days' use and see what reaction you get.



Baan Revision of States growthen POBox 111, Brownell Bade RCAT TLE



## Hard man of Lima rejects Japanese calls for compromise with guerrillas



Fujimori: has rejected any

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI AMLI VI

PRESIDENT FUJIMORI came out of his colonial government office in the centre of Lima to face the hostage crisis in true South American style. It was clear that he was not in any mood to adopt the diplomatic stance favoured by his Japanese cousins.

I am not going to have dialogue with terrorists and certainly not give in their main demand of releasing their imprisoned members." Senor Fujimori said in his DIPLOMACY

hours after the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement stormed the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima.

The wide gap between the President's approach and that of the Japanese Government is expected to delay efforts to resolve the crisis. Tokyo has urged a "peaceful, calm manner" to ensure the safety of the 460 hostages, including 150 Japa-nese diplomats and businessmen. who are facing their fourth day in captivity. Yukihiko Ikeda, the Japanese Foreign Minister, who arrived in Lima on Thursday night, looked uneasy during an hour-long meeting with Señor Fujimori. Mr Ikeda said the priority should be the

It may be that Japan wants Peru to strike a deal over the release of some of the rebels. But after the meeting, the President said: "In Peru we have taken a tough stand against insurgents and will contin-ue to do so." Señor Fujimori is known to favour the death sentence and has given a free reign to his security forces to "cleanse" Peruvian society of rebel sympathy, often

survival of the hostages.

at the cost of ignoring human

delle ic 150

rights.
The President's authoritarian style first became clear when he staged a constitutional coup against his own Government in 1992, and closed down Congress and the

He then held elections to give a democratic face to his second mandate, which began in 1994, but has not stopped intervening in all decision-making by issuing numerous decrees. In an interview last year, he said he was no fan of Western-style democracy, and that Peru had to be ruled with an "iron

fist". Senor Fujimori's parents left Japan in the 1940s and, like many Japanese immigrants, became shopkeepers. Their son studied hard, became an engineering lecturer and married into a well-to-do Japanese family.

Last year Senor Fujimori threw his wife, Susana Higuchi, out of the presidential residence, and she went to the press saying: "He has forgotten about his family's traditions and become a true South American dictator."

Peruvians confusedly call him El Chino, and he loves his nickname. "I speak Japanese with my three children but my heart is with Peru. We do things differently in Peru. Democracy is a word for the West." he said during a local election rally last year, in which he dressed in a poncho and promised that he would "wipe out all terrorists no matter how much blood has to be

Señor Fujimori is widely regarded as a populist who sees his stay in power as a personal pilgrimage. In the past few months, the President has spent more time changing the Constitution to allow him to run for re-election in 1999 than on any

## Rebels threaten to start killing hostages today

PERUVIAN terrorists say they will begin killing the 460 hostages they are holding in the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima today unless the Government meets their demands.

They set the deadline yesterday and reiterated their central demand. The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement gunmen want 458 of their imprisoned fellow rebels to be released, and safe passage for their leaders to jungle

The conditions for the 460 hostages held on two floors of the Ambassador's residence continued to worsen yesterday as they faced their fifth day in captivity. Signs put up by them at the windows of the building read: "We have no water. No light."

Four more hostages were released, after five elderly Japanese were freed on Thurs-

day. President Fujimori's Government has rejected the ter-rorists demands, raising fears that time for negotiations is running out. Mr Fujimori's stance has clashed with that of the Japanese Government, which has sent Yukihiko Ikeda, the Foreign Minister, to Lima to mediate. It insists that nothing should be done to risk the hostages' lives.

A British Embassy spokesman said British security speadvise the Peruvian security

Peru and Japan appear to be at odds over how to deal with the crisis, Gabriella Gamini writes from Lima

forces. American and German forces were also reported in Lima, to give advice. All Western representatives involved insist that the crisis should be resolved with "calm gotiations".

We strongly deny that there are plans to storm the building with SAS shock troops. They are here just to give advice to the Peruvian rvices, and the security of the hostages is always a priority, said a British Embassy official.

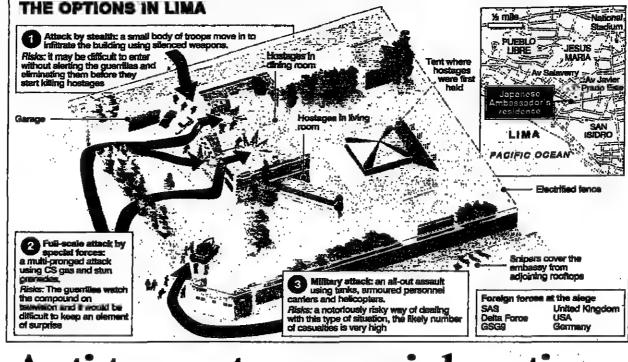
Two Britons, David Griffiths, a businessman, and Roger Church, the British Embassy's deputy chief of mission, are among the hos-tages in the mock colonial building in the district of San

Seventeen ambassadors, eight charges d'affaires and diplomats from 30 countries, Peru's anti-terrorist police chief Maximo Rivero, and the Foreign Minister, Francisco Tudela, are among the hostages, who also include 150 Japanese diplomats and businessmen and at least 150 members of Peru's political elite. The Red Cross has taken

on a mediating role and are delivering water, lavatory paper, towels and food to the door of the building. They also appear to be taking in mes-sages from the hostages'

The rebels, who include a woman, are demanding the release of their leader, Victor Pulay, and Lori Berenson, 27, an American woman sentenced to life imprisonment for taking part in a failed attempt to storm the Congress in 1995. The Tupac Amaru have targeted the Japanese community in Peru before, which suggests they are trying to strike at President Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, for courting Japanese investment and aid.

Rosa Elva, president of a Peruvian-Japanese Cultural Association, one of at least 100 women who were released from the building, said: "The rebels seemed very calm and collected. They were laden with weapons and heavy rucksacks and kept saying that things could go on for a long time. They were not nervous and seemed ready to give up



## Anti-terror teams weigh options

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE siege of the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima is being monitored by some of the most experienced counter-terrorist organisations in the world, including the SAS, the American Delta Force and Germany's GSG9. None is likely to recommend a siege-breaking assault because the odds are

Yet among these experts there must be developing a potential action plan that could be implemented as a last resort in the event of a deterioration in the negotiations with the Tupac Amaru guerrillas and the shooting of hostages. These are the options:

Assault by stealth, in which a team of counter-terrorist special forces mounts an attack with silenced weapons in

TACTICS an attempt to seek out the guerrillas.

A full special forces

assault, storming the building, using maximum diversionary tactics. ☐ A massive attack with troops and tanks, armoured personnel carriers and heli-

The third would pose the higgest risk for the hostages because of the likelihood of many dying in the crossfire. Key to any military plan would be the element of surprise, but the location is not encouraging. The residence is surrounded by extensive grounds and television cameras are relaying every movebuilding. The guerrillas can watch their television screens for any sign of an assault. An all-out assault by heavily armed troops has been tried before, with disastrous conse-

quences. In 1985, about 100 people, including II supreme court judges, were killed in neighbouring Colombia in a siege of Bogotá's five-storey main lawcourts. By contrast, in early 1980 members of the same M19

group invaded a cocktail party at the Embassy of the Dominican Republic and took 50 hostages, including the American Ambassador and 13 other envoys. The President, Julio César Turbay Ayala, spent 61 days negotiating their release. No one was killed.

With the third and most

ruled out, the focus of any military option would be on a special forces operation. Provided they have the time to plan an assault, they have the weaponry, expertise and special equipment for a raid...

While the negotiations continue, an assault team will have the time to collect intelligence on the whereabouts of the guerrillas and hostages. the state of mind of the rebels and their weaponry. Some intelligence will already have been gleaned from those who have been released. It was a freed hostage in the Iranian Embassy siege in London in 1980 who provided a vital clue for the SAS when he described how the leader of the Arab terrorists appeared to be losing his credibility with the

### **Niceties** that must precede an attack

By MARC WELLER

ANY plans to use force to end the siege have to take into account the legal complications involving embassies.

The invaded compound does not constitute an island of Japanese territory. But, according to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the receiving state of a diplomatic mission suspends its right to exercise public powers over the embassy premises. Its agents, or other foreign forces, may not enter without the consent of the mission's head or the sending state's Government.

in principle, that inviolability persists even in times of national emergency or upheaval, as the International Court of Justice confirmed in

## 

the 1980 Tehran hostages case. Forces such as the SAS would require a request from Peru before launching a rescue mission. Peru, in turn, must seek permission from Tokyo. If that cannot be obtained, the legal doctrine of distress might be invoked.

in several instances of hostage-taking in embassies, it was argued that the need to save the innocent must outweigh even the universally held interest of upholding the principle of the inviolability of diplomatic missions.

The author is an Assistant Director of Studies at the Centre of International Studles in the University of



Rates are effective from 2nd lennary 1997. Rates may vary.	Relance	Circus Rate pa. %	Net Rate pa. %		
BARCLAYS 90 DAY SAVINGS		Annual in	соте оргіон		
ACCOUNT  A 90 day notice account for savings of £1.000 or more, Interest is paid annually or monthly.	£100,000+ £50,000+ £25,000+ £10,000+ £1,000+	5.00 4,70 4.50 4.20 3.90	4.00 3.76 3.60 3.36 3.12		
BARCLAYS 30 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT A 30 day notice account for savings of £1,000 or more. Interest is paid quarterly or monthly.	£100,000+ £50,000+ £25,000+ £10,000+ £1,000+	Quarterly is 3.90 3.75 3.65 3.30 3.20	3.12 3.00 2.92 2.64 2.56		
BARCLAYS INSTANT SAVINGS ACCOUNT An instant access account for savings of £100 or more. Interest is paid quarterly or monthly.	£25.000+ £10,000+ £2,000+ £500+ £100+	Quanty a 3.60 3.15 3.00 2.30 0.75	2.88 2.52 2.40 1.84 0.60		
PRIME ACCOUNT A high interest cheque account for balances of £1,000 or more. Interest is paid quarterly	£25,000+ £10,000+ £2,500+ £1,000+	Quarterly is 3.60 3.15 3.00 2.30	2.88 2.52 2.40 1.84		
BARCLAYS TESSA A tax exempt savings account, for those aged 18 and over. Minimum opening balance L25 Interest is paid annually.	(25 to (29,000 subject to surrous implies	5.00%T/	XFREE		
SEVEN DAY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT A seven day notice account which can be opened with £1. Inserest to paid half-yearly.	£1+	0.50	0.46		
JUNIOR BARCLAYPLUS & BARCLAYPLUS limint access occurate for children and young people up to 16 years of age. Cash dispenser card for people aged 11 years and over. Interest is paid quarterly.	£1+	3.50	2.80		
CURRENT ACCOUNT					

Court II A Park Port	A COOT	N PTO	
STUDENT ACCOUNTS			
STUDENT ACCOUNT – FURTHER EDUCATION A special version of the Barclays Bank Account for students talking a full-time A level (or equivalent) course. Credit interest is paid quarterly.	£1+	3.50	2.80
STUDENT ACCOUNT – HIGHER EDUCATION A special version of the Barclays Bank Account for students taking a full-time	£1+	2.00	1.60

0.24

THE BARCLAYS BANK ACCOUNT

The interest bearing personal current count. Credit interest is paid quarterly

BARCLAYS

Banciago: Bank PLC, Reg. No. 1026167. Registered in Eng. Reg. Office: 54 London'd Stores, London, EC3P 3AH.

#### **Pro-Tibet** film stars on Peking blacklist FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

ANGERED by Hollywood's love affair with Tibet, Chinese authorities have drawn up a blacklist of stars who will not be allowed to go there.

Harrison Ford, Brad Pitt, Martin Scorsese and Jean-Jacques Annaud, the French director, have been barred from visiting the remote and beautiful mountain region invaded by China in 1951, an official said yesterday. News of the unusual black-

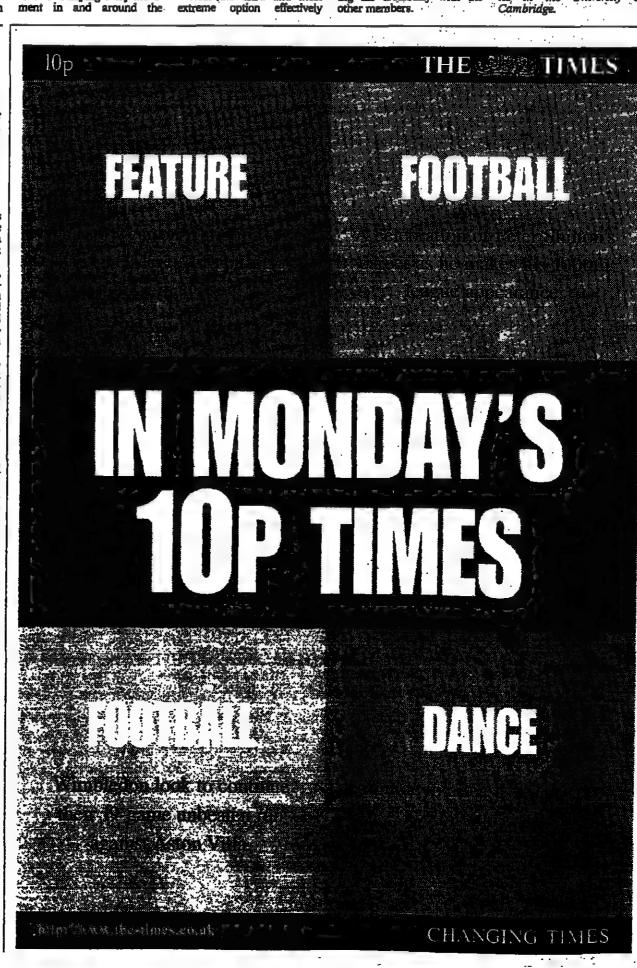
list emerged barely a week after the Walt Disney Company jeopardised its relations with China by refusing to halt production of Kundun. an epic being made by Scorsese on the life of the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader.

In recent months Tibet has become the rugged retreat of choice for many Hollywood stars, and its demands for freedom has become their cause celebre. Peking had informed Disney executives that it wanted work on Kundun, being shot in India, to stop.

After many years as a voice in the wilderness on the Dalai Lama's behalf, Richard Gere. the actor and a Buddhist, has been joined by other household names in calling for an end to religious repression and direct Chinese rule in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital. Ironically. Gere's name is not on the list that was compiled by Tibet's State Security Office, an official from the Tibet Tourism Bureau said.

Ford is included with his wife, Melissa Mathison Ford, apparently because of her work as a scriptwriter on Kundun. Pitt, the heart-throb from A River Runs Through It, stars in a forthcoming film by Annaud about an Austrian prisoner of war who fled to Lhasa from India in the Second World War.

The Chinese move is a clear sign that Peking regards Hol-lywood as a powerful potential ally for the underground resistance movement in Tibet led by monks, and for the





instead! I

## Unsteady Yeltsin goes on TV to pledge comeback

From Richard Beeston in moscow

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin yesterday told Russia that he would be back at his office in the Kremlin on Monday morning and planned a busy work schedule to make up for his six-month absence due to

In the first televised address to the country since his heart bypass surgery six weeks ago, the Russian leader appeared to be fully aware of the most pressing issues facing the nation, but physically did not look completely recovered from his open heart surgery.

"The country needs an active and energetic president, especially now," said Mr Yeltsin, who wore a brown cardigan and open-neck shirt. The doctors say, and I myself feel, the recovery period is over. On Monday the 23rd I will return to my office in the Kremlin. I'll be there at nine in the morning."

In spite of his positive

message, the Kremlin leader still looked weak. At times he seemed short of breath and his right hand appeared to shake when it was not resting on his lap. His message to the people was also clumsily delivered. Instead of an address to the nation, his television appearance took the form of a wellrehearsed question and answer session with an unnamed interviewer.

Nevertheless, President Yeltsin may have gone some way to easing concerns in the country that he is out of touch

WW. St. A.S.

the series

with the day-to-day issues of peace agreement with the state. He outlined his priorities and correctly identified the crisis over unpaid wages and uncollected taxes as the main issue to tackle on his return to the Kremlin.

The problem of the debt crisis, caused by companies not paying taxes and the state not paying pensions and wages, has led to a series of economic and social problems, which he promised would no longer be tolerated.

**6** This country needs an active and energetic president, especially now ?

A connected issue, which he said required his urgent attention, was the dire situation in the military, where lack of funding and low morale has led to repeated warnings from generals of a collapse in national security. He said he would personally oversee the drafting of a new military

President Yeltsin described the Chechen conflict as a "knot which is being untangled with great difficulty", but promised that Moscow stood by its

There has been much speculation in Moscow about the possibility of a reshuffle of senior figures in the administration, and President Yeltsin did nothing to dispel rumours of a purge. He said that after reviewing the Government's work, including that of Prime Minister Viktor Cherno-myridn and Anatoli Chubais. the head of the Presidential administration, he had concluded that not enough effort had been made in tackling Russia's pressing problems in

Western diplomats said it was unclear whether the Russian leader intended to launch a sweeping reshuffle of his ministers and aides, although that could be the best way to reimpose his control over the affairs of state.

his absence

Whatever his true state of health, the Russian leader is now committed to re-entering the political fray and his opponents are already waiting for him. General Aleksandr Lebed, the former security chief who was sacked by President Yeltsin in October, said yesterday that the Russian leader was already drinking again and predicted that the country would not be any more stable with his return to the Kremlin.

The President has back to drinking," he said on German television. There is no hope in Russia any more."



Yeltsin on television: he looked weak and his message was clumsily delivered

## Chechen murder suspects held

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE Chechen authorities announced yesterday that they had arrested suspects in the murder of six international Red Cross workers, and hinted the crime may have been orchestrated by Moscow.

Abu Movsayev, the top Chechen security official, said several people had been ap-prehended since Tuesday's dllings, but refused to say more. "Unfortunately there are many people and powerorganisations inside Chechnya and outside the region who want to make the world see our republic as a land of barbarians and bandits," he said, adding that the "visible war with Russia is over, but the secret war is continuing".

Over the past week a series of violent incidents has shaken confidence in the Chechnya-Russia peace deal and the future of the tiny breakaway republic, due to hold its first parliamentary and presidential elections at

the end of next month. Salman Raduvev, a rene gade Chechen guerrilla. tary troops, the Red Cross workers were murdered, six Russian civilians were killed in Grozny and, lastly, a threeman delegation from a neighbouring republic was reportedly abducted by

Dushanbe: Guerrilles in Tajikistan - racked by civil war for four years — seized 23 hostages yesterday, including seven foreign United Nations military observers.

The hostage-takers threatened to shoot the 23 unless their leader's brother, held by opposition fighters,

## **Paris bans Swiss** cattle after BSE border blockade

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

terday bowed to pressure from its cattle farmers and extended its ban on beef imports to Switzerland, the country worst affected by "mad cow" disease

after Britain Farmers in eastern France have been pressing for such a ban, with some mounting a blockade of the border, on the ground that Swiss cattle could infect their herds and that importation of beef from the country was undermining consumer confidence. Austria, Germany and Italy have already taken measures to ban cattle from Switzerland.

Yesterday, Philippe Vasseur, the French Agriculture Minister, said Paris would ask the European Union to establish a common policy on Swiss beef, as it has with Britain.

"This precautionary measure is taken pending the official position of the European Union. It is justified by the absolute priority we place on protecting consumers." M Vasseur said,

Switzerland has reported 230 cases of BSE and Britain 160,000. The Swiss authorities say they will eradicate the disease through a SFro.5 million (£2.9 million) programme to slaughter at least 1,500 cows. But the programme was not enough to stem anger in France, where cattle farmers' earnings have fallen sharply this year.

Paris at first tried to resist famers' pressure, arguing that a nationwide ban was unnecessary. However, local au-

THE French Government yes- thorities near the Swiss border paved the way for a government climb-down when they banned Swiss beef from the Doubs department in October.

Yesterday M Vasseur said some Swiss beef products could enter France under "exceptional circumstances" and tight sanitary conditions. But he said there would be no exceptions to the ban on Swiss cattle.

Despite the ban, French farmers at the Swiss border said yesterday that they would not stop their blockade of lorries carrying caule. They have forced several such vehicles to turn back to Switzerland since Wednesday.

An official at the Swiss veterinary office said the French decision appeared to be motivated more by commercial and political criteria than by health matters. Last month 652 head of cattle were exported to France, as opposed to 28 between January and

The Swiss Farm Producers Association accused the French of "verging on hypocri-sy". It claimed that French companies fraudulently relabelled contaminated British cattle feed and re-exported it to Switzerland before 1989, and that Paris had not taken

action against them.
Austria, Germany and Italy banned Swiss beef imports several months ago. With 68 outbreaks of BSE in 1995, and 45 so far this year, the epidemic is regarded as declining in

#### Juppé finds top job hard to stomach

FROM ADAM SAGE 'IN PARES

PRESIDENT Chirac has advised France's unpopular Prime Minister, Alain Juppe, to put on weight as part of his attempt to convince voters that he is a sensitive and "cuddly" sort of chap. Widely seen as cold and arrogant, M Juppé's attempts to improve undermined by his slender and angular frame.

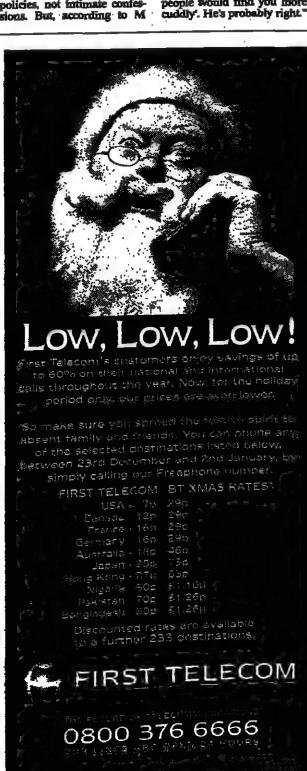
Faced with disastrous opinion poll ratings, the Prime Minister has been striving to carn at least sympathy, this week bringing out a book detailing the emotional torture he has suffered during his 19 months in charge of the Government. The work was ridiculed by the press, which said he should offer new policies, not intimate confes-



Juppe: arivised to adopt weightier image

Chirac, what France wants from its Prime Minister is neither a change of political tack nor a more human face —

but a bigger belly. The Prime Minister said: The President often tells me, You ought to put on 10 kilos, people would find you more





ALL PRICES SHOWN ARE MEMBER PRICES, MEMBERSHIP IS FREE, IT'S INSTANT AND CAN BE ARRANGED BY VISITING OR TELEPHONING YOUR LOCAL STORE

ALL PRICES SHOWN. After Methoders Frenches, recovery recovery to the recovery by Spin Manday to Pijday and we'll deliver the next working day. Orders placed on Sund by Committee on Spind Spin Manday to Pijday and we'll deliver the next working day. Orders placed on Sund before the next working day. Orders placed on Sund before the next working day. Orders placed on Sund before the next working day. Orders placed on Sund before the next working day. Orders placed on Sund before the next working day. Orders placed on Sund before the next working day.

### Royalists hope Senate role is prelude to popular Astrid taking throne rather than 'lightweight' brother

mother of four, would make a

In contrast, the unmarried

Philippe, 36, is often depicted

as a lightweight and ill-

equipped for the job. The

speculation subsided last

Prince", as he is known,

proclaimed his intention of

ruling, but now he has again

Their father, once known as

playboy, has emerged as a

strom driven by the crisis over

child murders, corruption

and the separatist pressure

from Flanders. But the

Princess's supporters say that

as a modern woman, a Queen

Astrid would be even better at olding Belgium together.

been upstaged by his sister.

ummer when "Le Petit

good monarch.

مكذا بن الماص

## Signal for a future queen

BELGIAN royalists are mus-ing again on a "dream ticket" for the future monarchy of their fractured country.

The excuse came when Princess Astrid, the daughter of King Albert II and Queen Paola, decided to exercise a royal prerogative and take a seat in the Senate.

The move late last month revived hope among many loyalists that the popular and serious-minded Princess, 34, who was once high on the list of eligible partners for the Prince of Wales, could eventually reign instead of her older brother. Breaking with the quaint decorum which the Belgian media reserve for royalty. Le Soir wondered: "Is

by CHARLES BREMNER exercising the royal function

**BRUSSELS FILE** 

in the event that Prince Philippe refuses the succession? The idea is not implausible. Uncertainty has lately surrounded the succession of the family which has ruled since Lord Palmerston persuaded the reluctant Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, uncle of Queen Victoria, to reign over the newly invented country in 1831. The rumours began in 1991 when the late King Baudouin had the old Salic law changed to enable a woman to succeed to the throne.

On the sudden death of the childless Baudouin two years later, many Belgians were surprised when Albert, the late King's brother, took the throne rather than passing it directly to his son Philippe, as expected. It was obvious to many that Princess Astrid,

"She has everything," notes one admirer. "She is a sainte-Traditionalists want Santa sacked épouse ... she's a leader, a perfect role model." On top of TO THE chagrin of traditionalists. Belthat traditionalists love the fact that Archduke Lorenz of Austria. Her banker husband. this Christmas by the problem of duelling is a member of the Habsburg Santas. Like their cousins in The Netherlands, little Walloons and Flemhouse, one of Europe's oldest ings know that St Nicholas is an austere, dynasties, thin, white-bearded old man in a bishop's For her maiden speech in

the senate, Princess Astrid called for a moral reawaken-Sinterklaas, as he is known in Dutch, is celebrated in schools and by a rush at the toy shops in early December. He is. ing, a return to family values and a rejection of the culture of selfishness which, she implied, also afflicted the governing classes. Delivered as tradition dictates, half in Dutch and half in French, her speech was heavily applauded. Only the Vlaams Blok, the extreme-right Flemish party, church and parents' groups are urging walked out in protest.

neys." However the largesse of



Princess Astrid of the Belgians is sworn in as a member of the Senate

## Bleak fable hailed as EU alarm call

PRINCE PHILIPPE does not emerge well from French-speaking Belgium's best-seller of the season. He is the weak future king in Le Siège de Bruxelles, a dark fable set in 2007, which is being both hailed as a wake-up call for Belgium and European federalists and vilified as an anti-Flemish tract.

The plot is set in a Brussels which has collapsed into a version of Sarajevo or pre-war Shanghai, with a rich European Union quarter guarded by international police while the impoverished locals, excluded from the single currency, scrounge for survival. The tale, by Jacques Neirynck, an engineering professor, weaves present fact with fiction to recount the takeover of Brussels, now a bilingual enclave inside Flanders, by a fascist Flemish Führer who is half English. The hero, his cousin, tries to save the country. To the cries of "All for Flanders. Flanders for Christ". Flemish militia wage "ethnic cleansing" against Walloons and Muslim

A good read and fortuitously timed for Belgium's present mood of siege, the book has struck a chord because its premise is deemed to be just plausible. Flanders, prosperous and nationalist, is pulling away from the impoverished Wal-loon half of the country and predictions of the imminent break-up of Belgium are commonplace.

Mr Neirynck's yarn, now in its fourth

print run since September, is also welcomed for its insights into the fate of the EU's federal drive. In his vision, the dawn of the single currency in 1999 has consolidated the carve-up of Europe as a Franco-German empire. Britain has be-come poor and impotent outside the EU, but it re-emerges with a vengeance in the

## Seasonal subsidy for Lapland cheers tourist trade

mitre who turns up with presents on a boat

however, increasingly rivalled by the jolly, fat, red-clad man who flies in three weeks

later. The American-inspired Santa still

misses most Belgian chimneys, but his

image is omnipresent on television and in

the shops. Unhappy over the confusion.

shops to eschew the commercial interloper.

from Spain on December 5.

FROM CHARLES BREMNER in Brussels

SANTA CLAUS may be delivering extra toys to Brussels this year. The gesture is the least the Commission could expect after it sent £102,000 of European Union funds to renovate his Lapland home and train his little helpers.

The subsidy from the EU's regional aid programme has sone to install more comfortable surroundings and a better workshop at the Santa Claus Office and Village at Rovaniemi, in the Finnish

Arctic, which he is said to consider his main dwelling. Finland qualified for the aid, which includes E21,000

for training the elves to help him to reply to 700,000 letters a year, because the Lapland region is experiencing an economic slump. "It's not that we believe in Santa, but that this stimulates business and creates employment," said the spokeswoman for Monika Wulf-Mathies, Commissioner for the Regions.

The Rovaniemi complex, which now includes computers and video-conferencing for Santa, draws tens of thousands of tourists to Finland, a big proportion on charter flights from Britain. Thirteen flights a day, and one by Concorde, have been bringing visitors to Rovaniemi.

The other day the Spice Girls dropped in with their wish list for Joulupukki, as Santa is known in Finnish. "Now it's not so crowded, I can have a quiet chat with the very young children," a grate-ful Santa told visitors this

Brussels has upset the reindeer at Santa's homes in Sweden and Norway, where local authorities also make much of the tourist potential. The Finnish authorities note that most children know Santa lives in Lapland; other countries receive only some 140,000 letters a year. The nearest rival, Drobak, near

helpers say. The Santa industry is seriweek. "I'm able to have some of my books with me - like ous business for the Nordic my guide to the world's chimstates, as well as for Canada,

Osio, gets half the visitors of

Rovaniemi, Santa's Finnish

which has its own branch. Russia has lately joined the act with trips to visit Dyed Moroz (Grandfather Frost), a cousin of Santa. who traditionally turns out accompanied by an ice-maiden for new year festiv-

There was no comment on Finland's jingle bells subsidy from Nikolaus van der Pas, the chief spokesman for Jacques Santer, the Commission President

Mr Van der Pas did, however, sign his Christmas card to journalists this year "Santer's Klaus".

**OPERA & BALLET** 

COLDIEUN 0171 622 8301

#### Steel strikers riot in Belgium

Brussels: Hundreds of striking steelworkers rioted yesterday in Tubize to protes against a European Union decision to block subsidies designed to rescue their ailing company. Without the money, their steel mill faces bankruptcy with the likely loss of 1,826 jobs.

More than 1,000 strikers, ome masked and armed with batons, smashed bank windows, wrecked telephone cabins and looted a police station, the Belga news agen-cy reported. (AP)

#### **Greek ports protest** traps British drivers Smith, appealed to Stavros

FROM JOHN CARR-IN ATTOONS

A FIVE-DAY strike by Greek dockworkers and merchant seamen has closed all the country's ports, stranding about 30 British lorry drivers in Patras, where they were due to get ferries to Italy. The strike was scheduled to

end at dawn today, but militant seamen's unions were yesterday threatening to extend it. The British Ambassador, Sir Michael Llewellvn-

Soumakis, the Greek Merchant Marine Minister, to help the Britons. "The Minister promised to do what he could." Gordon Bernard, the British Consul said.

The drivers were anxious to catch last ferries from Calais on Christmas Eve. "Any delay from Patras beyond Saturday and they'll be too late," Mr

Yesterday afternoon it was hoped a few foreign-run ferries might leave Patras.

0**990** 500 800/344 4444/420 0000

(big lee) Grps 416 6076 TIM RUCE &

JESUS CHRIST

SUPERSTAR

"Bends Shitvers Rucing Down The Spine" D.Telegraph Eves 7.45. Mels Wed & Sat 3 (no blig les for personel callers at the Lyosum box office 10em-8pm).

Extre Mets Mon 23 Dec, Tue 24

Dec 5, Fri 27 Dec

To advertise in this section

please call the Entertainments

team on:

0171 680 6222 0171 481 9313

A 24



#### (MITH. 4.JAN MOT to Sal 230 8 / 3 (31 Dec 2 & 7pm) No peri 25 Dec THE INCOMPARABLE KIROV BALLET The Nuteracker ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 0171 98 **English National Ballet** THE NUTCEACKER 1.2,3,4,11 Jan 2.30pm. No paris Suri ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 30 000 for Box Office & Standby Info Tides available on the day The Royal Opera Ton? 7.30 TURAMDOT The Royal Ballet Mon 7 00, Tue 12.00pm, Fs 230 & 7 30 CINDERELLA PEACOCK THEATRE 0171 314 8800 CINDERKILLAMon-Sat 7 30 Tues. Wed, Sat 2.30 (No parts 24th 23th Dec & Jan 1) THEATRES ADELPHI -ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE Will S. Journal Sunset BOULEVARD BEST MUSICAL

PETULA CLARK 24-F CREDIT CARD SOCKINGS CALL 344 0056 (Dig No) GFP BOOKING 413 3302 (Dig Sei) No booking less for Adely Box Office Callers on 0171 379 888 Mon-Set 7 45 Mais Thur & Set 3 00 Extra Main Mon 25 Dec. The 34 Dec A PH 27 Dec

ALBERY THEATRE 0171 389 1730 Uniii 25 Jan 1997 The Royal Strakespeare Company production of THE CHERRY ORCHARD

'Adrian Noble's glorous productio Eves 7.30 Mets Thur & Set 3 00

ALEMPICHOTT ATBOOK COO

tee 344 4444 Gros 0800 614 903

1906 Eve Std Drama An DAVID SLICHET WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF Or by Howard Davies Mon-Sat 7.15pm Sat Mat 2.15pm No perts 23-25 Dec Special Perf Tues 31st 5pm

APOLLO WICTORIA C: (177) 416 6055 cc: 24hm 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321 Audress Lloyd Welson 4 STARLIGHT EXPRESS White knuckte runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50

#### THEATRES

APOLLO 404 SOTOBAL 4444 THEY'RE BACK! THE BLUES PROTTERS

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS PART Let makes by 5 WEEKS CHLY BLOCKSBURY THEATRE NO. COS 0171 388 6822 Lind Jan 4 SPECIAL FAMILY TICKET 520

SOOTY AT CHRISTMAR CAMBREDGE 494 50R0/416 ROM Groups 494 5454 416 6075/413 3321/436 5588

GREASE "Feet, furious, thriffing & feet, fun, fun," D.Minux TICKETS AVAILABLE APPLY DAILY TO Mon-Set 7 30pm, Wed & Sat Mat 3pm CHAPEL OF LOVE-PICCADILLY

017: 267 4433/420 0000344 4444 ". THE WEDDING OF THE CENTURY" The Daily Telegraph JORY & CHNA'S WEDDING Book now and be per of this hismous estrangenza. Price includes show, he mano and entires to fain build. Special party rates. Thus-Fird 7.45, Set 8.30, Sun 6.00 Some SEATS WITH LAVAILABLE FOR SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY, PLES PER PERSON.

PARTY, \$125 PER PERSON MCLUSIVE OF FIVE COURSE MEAL AND BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE PER COUPLE COMEDY THEATRE 0171 369 731 oc 344 444 (skg loss QC 0000 Eng fi Thus Mar 3 Set Mar 5

MACGIE SMITH MARGARET TYZACK TALKING HEADS ALAN RENNETT

No peris between 23 Dec-4 Jan CRITERION 399 1737/344 4444 REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM ENWESPEARE (storidged) Al 37 Pags in 97 Minutes THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF Tuesday at 8pm

**DOMINION 416 6052/420 0000** LONDON'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER SCROOGE THE MUSICAL "BREATHLESS SCARAWAY SHOW - MAGNIFICENT" D'EXD. LANTED SEASON TO 1 FEB.

DOMENIACIÓ 0171 656 1885/0890 020/420 0000 (blug fee) Grps 415 6096/312 1997/ 0800 614903 BRAUTY AND THE BRAST

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Big fee) 24tr 7 days (1171 494 8000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 231 1/312 8000 MISS SAIGON

"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF GUR TIME" NOW IN ITS ETH EXTRAORDINARY YEAR! Even 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seeks avail for Wed Mat. & some perts - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL

0171 484 5060 (BKG PEE DUCHESS cc:0171 494 5070 cc:34 4444 (no ting km)420 0000 (sing km) 0171-413 3021 Even (lpm, Wed milk 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 "A MARCY COMMEDY" E. Sid

NOW IN IT'S 6th YEAR FOR DINNER "Gloriously Outrageous" T (); 24 Dec 3pm. No P<u>erf 25 Dec</u>

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836

Scott Hills THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Singhen Malistrate
The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D Mail
NOW IN TIS STH YEAR

Mon-Sat Born Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990 Forget HER OF WARD

BARRY STANTON . JE Priestey's AN INSPECTOR CALLS
THRELING MUST BE SEEN D.Mail

"Two Hours of ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUMMING DYAMA" 1.16 Mon-Fri 7.45, Set 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 230 GIELGUO THEATRE 0171 494 SOSA0171 312 1990 "BUB HOSKINS" &

STAGE COMERACK IS AN YING HIT"S Bore JAMES CALLIS OLD WICKED SONGE

CHICAGO DY ESTAN MONTHINGS IN "ENCITIONAL PUNICH THAT LEAVES YOU REPLING WITH PLEASURE\_A REVETING NIGHT\* Ere Std Mon-Set 7 30pm, Thurs met 2.30pm, Sat met 4pm Russing time 2ims 15 m MUST END 11 JAN

HAYMARKET 930 8800 (no biso feet 344 4444/420 0000 (mith blog lee) Non-Sail 7 45pm Matte Tray & Sat 3pm JESSICA LANGE

OTENNESSEE WILLIAMS'
\STREETCAR MANED DES
GROSS by PETER HALL
Red Price Press Now! STUBBS

HER MAJESTY'S 24tr 494 5400 (big fee) CC 344 4444420 0000 flee Caps 494 5454415 3311/436 5566 AMDREW LLOYD WESTER'S

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BIGG TO MAY 97

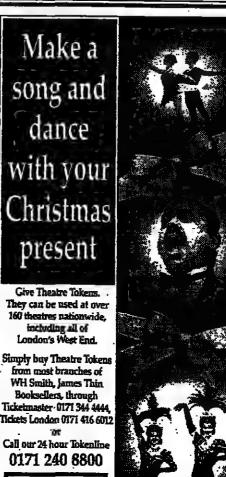
Sives 7,45 haute Weed & Set 3.00. Apply to Box Office chilly for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BOICC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 fit serv cha) 420 0000 Grps 0171 494 5454 AMALOR THEATPOOL EVENT MA "ROBERT LINUSAY'S FAGIN IS FULL OF CHARM, WARMITH & GLEEFUL CHIMMALITY, HE'S & HOOT" IJ. Exp.

OLIVER SRID PREPRESSIBLE YEAR JONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE

SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL

NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS THEATRES

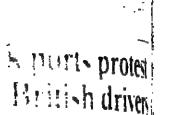


TOKENŚ

THEATRE

Eclip:

Bleak fable | alarm call





OPINION

As Miss Pamela Anderson's regular bulletins show, the Americans have perfected the art of promotion



**THEATRE** Playing Falstaff

as an affable saloon-bar johnny, Leslie Phillips makes his debut at the RSC

THE



POP 🌉

Folk singer and lesbian icon Ani DiFranco presents an uncompromising face to London



ON MONDAY

Richard Briers in A Christmas CaroL and reviews of the the weekend's other top shows

iss Pamela Anderson, the prodigiously sculp-tured young lady whose adventures on the television series Baywatch have so increased awareness of safety procedures at sea, has announced that she is quitting the series to write books.

That was this week's announcement. Last week she announced that she was quitting her husband. Her actual words after confirming the split were: "He is a wonderful man and he is in recovery for alcohol abuse and I am there to support him" - a sentence of such paradoxical and inscrutable logic that I wonder whether Miss Anderson, in her new literary career, could be Malibu's answer to Samuel Beckett. We shall just have to wait for her books.

Meanwhile, Miss Anderson's latest bulletin (or perhaps it isn't the latest, I may be confused) touches on her spiritual health. She is, she says, "bonding inwardly" on the advice of a shrink. And by the way, the husband is back. I don't know about you, but I

That damn British reserve has to go find this riveting. No, not the daily updates on Miss Anderson's wellbeing. What I find fascinating

is the contrast between British and American styles in self-promotion. Put bluntly, they do their hype brilliantly; we, on the whole, do it appallingly. The reason they do it so well is that American publicists (or, in Miss Anderson's case, selfpublicists) actually believe in what

they are saying.

And as the splurge of Evita coverage showed this week, this shining-eyed certainty rubs off even on supposedly hard-nosed journalists. We, too, start to believe that we are executive. that we are reporting something important, even when the evidence of our own eyes tells us that the product is desperately average.

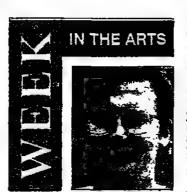
In Britain our innate self-mockery gets in the way of our own attempts at hype. This week, for instance, the actor Jeremy Irons

came up with a very British piece of hype. He threatened to leave the country if his new film. Lolita, is

Oh dear. The words "squib" and "damp" have rarely been more aptly conjugated. For a start, nobody believes him. Secondly. who cares if he goes? Thirdly and this is the biggest crime when it comes to hyping your film — his remarks were barely noticed. He was speaking at the dismally attended closing ceremony of Cine-ma 100. And since this was itself a very British event, nobody had bothered to hype it in advance.

To make matters worse, this happened just as Madonna was sweeping across every British front page. The contrast between blinding American self-confidence and stuttering British self-depreca-

tion was cruelly displayed.



RICHARD MORRISON

pouring millions of lottery pounds into "reviving" the British film industry. But if we don't grasp the essential point — that it's the brash, unselfconscious hyping of Hollywood movies which makes

don't have a hope of producing regular £150-million smash hits. Incidentally, have you noticed

the new, virulent strain of hype rampant in America? I call it Celebrity Gush. It works like this. You invite very famous people to your premiere. After the show you ask them if they enjoyed them-selves. "Wow, terrific," they reply politely. The next thing they know, their "Wow! Terrific!" is plastered in 3ft letters on your billboard.

Someone in America worked this stunt to fabulous effect on behalf of the Cirque du Soleil, the acrobatic troupe at the Albert Hall next month. Its publicity material is a magnum opus of Celebrity Gush. "This is it! The pinnacle!" Robin Williams apparently de-clared. "A wonderful fantasy," Bill Clinton simpered, Harrison Ford said that the company "re-invent-

paper clip?) And Francis Coppola waxed lyrical in two languages ("vive le cirque! wonderful!").

At the moment, such Celebrity Gush can be weighed against newspaper reviews before the punter spends his dosh. But one day promoters will abolish critics' tickets altogether, and just rely on the celebs, the hype and the gossip columns to publicise their shows, That will be sad. Somewhere in the process of bringing out a blockbuster movie or musical, some-body should tell the public honestly whether it is any good.

nd now, from our Depart-ment of Light Irony, comes Acheering news about the British Museum, where they predict a £20 million deficit by the year 2000, rejoice in employing not a single accountant among their

1.100 staff, and have received a report that castigates their financial controls as being Neolithic, if not downright Palacolithic.

So are they a little touchy on the question of money? Au contraire! Next month the BM launches its own Money Gallery, tracing the "amazing variety and uses" of filthy lucre over 4.000 years.

Actually, it is not quite the BM's own gallery. The new venture will be called the "HSBC Money Gallery", in somewhat fulsome acknowledgement of a donation from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Rumours that HSBC cashpoints will be inserted into the BM's hallowed walls are of course entirely deli-

cious ... sorry, malicious. What does the BM's army unworldly curators make of all this? An unintended hint comes, perhaps, in a statement from the BM's press office. "In spite of its importance," the Bloomsbury innocents sniff sadly, "money is not easily understood." You can say

#### Per so much else in Judge's revival is fine. Tim Goodchild has designed a lovely set, with a distant Windsor Castle looking across fields at leaf-encrusted timbering that effortlessly changes from countyard to house to pub. You might expect the rufts placed above the suits, overcoats and baggy plus-fours to look like corrugated neckbraces, but There is a case for seeing the Virgin Queen as the original John Birt or Michael Grade. Feeling that those pilot programmes Henry IV parts one and two had not exhausted Falstaff's comic possibilities. Elizabeth I reputedly commissioned an episode in which the old buffer fell in love. And Shakespeare, ever the pro, came up with a marvellous mix of pranks and jokey revenges in which all end up punished for their follies: not only the lecherous Falstaff but Master Ford, who

gourmand ble saloon-bar johnny whose tipple would be not sack, but G&T. As

he is also sprightly and

only superficially fat, he misses the comedy inherent in man-mattress creakily. readying himself for adultery, then escape. What's worse, neither he nor Edward Petherbridge's Ford seem to care much if he ends up in bed with

- and not on the periphery, but at the centre of the sitcom. Petherbridge may swirl off-Leslie Phillips's Falstaff has stage with a wall of "I am his jaunty moments, but alhorn-mad" at one point, but mostly he plays the putative ways seems less a majestic

The Merry Wives of Windsor RST, Stratford

Opportunity after opportunity goes begging, not least in the scenes in which the disguised Ford must sit and squirm while Falstaff describes his erotic aims. The moment when Petherbridge empties Susannah Yorka Mrs Ford.

thin, repressed result that his jealousy simply isn't pow-erful enough

to raise the comic stakes. the washing hamper where he thinks Phillips is hiding is funny, not because of his desperation, but because he fills the stage with half a department store of lingerie.

the mix of the Elizabethan and the vaguely modern seems agreeably exotic. And there are two wonderfully warm wives in Joanna McCallum and (understandably, given her man) a sometimes melancholy York. Moreover, there is a genu-

ine standout among the smaller parts. As the snooty French doctor, Caius, Guy Henry's wit and poise stay intact despite his having to spout more naughty double-enten-dres than Shakespeare wanted. Why doesn't someone give this actor the bigger opportunities his sharp performances merit? In fact, why not give

> BENEDICT **NIGHTINGALE**



Leslie Phillips — a Falstaff more affable saloon-bar johnny than majestic gourmand — and Cherry Morris (Mistress Quickly)

#### THEATRES

LYRIC 0171 494 5045 THE BUST UNIFICETENTIQUELY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON TIES

wrongly thinks the knight is

having an affair with his wife,

and Master Page, who plans

to marry his daughter to a

simpering dimwit.

The Merry Wives was always good, harmless fun, and

remains good, seasonal fun. But would either Elizabeth or

Birt commission an entire

series from Ian Judge on the

basis of his present cast? I fear

they would demand changes

THE ALAN AYCKBOURN &

MAD THE AUDIENCE LAUGHTER" ind Concessors available. Entre Nies Mass 23 Dec. Tsa 34 Dec & Frt 27 Dec

MATHORIAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Gps 0171 620 0741; 24hr oc big les 0171 420 0000 OLLWIER Today 2.00 & 7.15, Mon 7.15 CATYIN AND DOLLS Welc 7.15 CAPTS AND DOLLS WEET AND SHERRY & AND BUTTONS.
LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30 (FINAL PERFS) JOHN GABRIEL SUPPORTAN HAVE EAST IT I FOR VERSION BY MICHOES WINGH.
MON 7.30 DEATH OF A MALESOMM AND AND EATH OF A COTTESSION AND AND A COTTESSION AND 24x 0171 344 4444/20 0000 Gras 0171 418 3911/436 5568 THE ANDREW LLEND WESSEY T.S. ELICT INTERNATIONAL Award winding multical

Base 7.45 Main Tun 6.544 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED

Tel: 0171 680 6222

or fax: 0171 481 9313 OLD VIC 828 7516/312 8034
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
Second World Could Orleaning
Bedown Grant Robert East
Robert Marmy Without Toold
OSCAR WILDE'S MASTERRECE

AN IDRAL HUSBAND Mon-Sa 7.30, Man Wed & Se 3.00 LAST 6 WEEKS

OPERA & BALLET SLIN Sephen Polekoli. VICTOR HOUHHAUSER Vh luteracker UNTIL 4 JANUARY Landon COLISEUM 01/1632 8300

LES MISERARILES

CATE

WHILE ALDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE REPROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED MO, OF SEATS AWAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE. To advertise

by Peter Covelid based on a original work by Chilematsu Monzaemon. Mon 7:30 BILINDED BY THE

ENTERTAINMENTS

IANKT MATEER

PALACE TREATINE DITI-SH (INC) cc 20ns (big fee) 0171-344 4444 (big fee) Ops (1171 413 3311 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR

HOW IN ITS 11TH NECOND-SPEAKING YEAR
Sec. 7.50 Male Thu & Sat 2.30
Lakecomers not admitted
until the interval
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAILABLE.

DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE PHOENIX BOXCO (171 38) 17() BEST MUSICAL

Oliver/Orama Awards Plays & Pleyers/fuor Novello A WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS Bridge the materior to its feet, and rounting Rs sepreval D MAI TOTAL TRACES HAND HATEL Eves 7.45 Mais Thurs 3 Sat 4

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734544 AUNENTURES IN MOTION PICTURES PRESENTS SWAN LAKE

Sanciari San PLAYHOUSE 017: 839 4401 CC

OWEN TRALE "A Great & Linmissable Event" S Tim A DOLL'S HOUSE

by Humin Bone extend by Frank Nocument discoul by Anthony Puga Mon-Set 7:30 Mass Sal 2:30 MUST CLOSE 11 MAN PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5967

MEAN UMOXIN', ENOUGH ENERGY TO ELECTRIFY A GRAMMY AWARD WHINING MUSICAL

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE THE SONGS OF LEBER & STOLLER TRUE" D. Telegraph Mon-Sat Spm, Thu & Sai Mats 3pm

PRINCE EDWARD (171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 "A MASCAL MASTERPRETE THEAL POWER & PASSION A PLOCKRUSTER" D. TH "A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC INJECAL A GREAT EVENING

MARTIN GUERRE BOUBLE & SCHONBERG'S

A VISISSANCE' SU Mon-Set 7.45 Mate Thur & Sat 3.00

CULTERIES (Not less) 494 50407 u 4444 Grps 404 5454/436 5588 CENE WILDER Pus the Gene Into genius" D.Meil. In NEIL SIMON'S LAUGHTER ON THE 23rd PLOOR

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

LOWDON (017) (08 6901) BARBICAN: AS YOU LING! IT Today 2,00 & 7.15 THE PIT: THE WHITE DIEVIL THE PTI: THE WHITTI DEVIL TODBY 200 & 7.15 STRATPORD (D1789 28822) oc. 0171 413 1452) RST: MINCH ANDO AMOUNT NOTHINGS TODBY 1.30 & 7.50 SWANE HESINTY VIBITIDING 1.30 & 7.30 TOP: CONCERT TODBY 5.00

MOYAL COURT 0171 555 5000

HOVAL COUNT 071 85 5000 cc. 420 010 (24ms) Upstand (4mbassacins, Wast 8) / Lichted A BE ARTS DECOORANT by Jan Caraments. Ends Today, Mars St. 23. THE ONE YOU LOVE by The Lancounter. Ends Today, Tue-Ont 7.15. Downstains (Dule of Yorks, St. Marstr's Lang THE BEAUTY ONE OF LEGISLANCIN Marsh. Line 114 Jan Marsh. 18.30. Sat met 3.30.

SADLERS WELL'S of the PEACOCK THEATIVE (171 514 6800 9-30 Jan Sell Cost Edinburgh Frantisal Hit SLAVA

SNOW SHOW 17 Perfs Only INAVOY THEATNE 0171 835 MMS 03 420 0000344 4444 (no big less) Groups 0800 614 903 GREET RIVER MEMALLY SARA CROWTE

PLUNDER Sen Travers' Addam Nece One of the great Chostmes se Strenden Maloy - ITV. Society United Season

Evgs 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30 SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5398 0171 413 3588 (24te)to big lee) Groups 0171 413 3321 "Breathtaiding" S. Times "Spectacular" F.T "Brittant" Observer

TOMMY PAUL KEATING - KOM WILDS PAUL ICENTING - KMI WILDE as Tocspy as Mrs Walker Mcn-Thu Sprii, Rd 230pm (Mi seets ELS) & 8,50 pm; Sti 3pm & 8,30pm Xmas Parks Dac 28 Sprii & Rprii Dec 24 5pm, Dec 26 INSTED DAILY AVAILABILITY

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1448 Eve 8, Tue 2.45, SM 5 & 8. No perts 24,25 Dec. 27 Dec. 5 & 8 AGATHA CHRISTIE'S THE MOUJETHAP

45th YEAR

#177AARD THEATRE Box Off & co (no lee) 0171 830 MIDO co (Dig line) 0171 344 4444/83 0000 Groups 0171 413 3321 (0171 436 5988 \*BUDDY\*

The Dunly Holy Story BUDDY

"BUTDDY"
Titles-Titles (LD Firl 5 20 & 0.20
Sels 5.00 & 8.20 Senday 4.00
ALL SEATS (AP FIRCE FIR 5 20 PERF
Zonan partie: No partie Dec 24,25
B. Jen 1
Edus part Maio Dec 20 at 0.20
and ELECTRIPYONG YEAR VAUDEMILLE 0171 836 9987 (no big fee) cc: 420 0000/344 4444 (big fee)

Roald Dahl'S THE WITCHES MAINTELOUS "See Sande Mon 7pm, Tues-Fri 2pm & 7pm Set 11am, 2pm & 7pm 5 WEEKS ONLY VICTORIA PALACE BO 6 co mo

heij 0171 634 1317 cc (dig heij 0171 344 4444;312 1998/420 0000 Groups 0171 312 1995 (0171 458 55m) (no heij WINNER AWARDS BEST MUSICAL

"JOLSON" "A RESOUNDING HIT" Sunday Telegraph
Evgs, Tues to Sel 7:30, Mais Wed &
Sel 3:00 Exem special to puto mail
Thus at 3:00 steming
Alan Suseni
Alan Suseni
Alan Extension Dec 24, 25,
25 A 20, Extension Dec 25 3:00
at 7:30, 00e 27 3:00

MOW BEIORING TO APPRIL 197 WHITEHALL 356 1735 00 344 444 Eves 8 Wed 3 Sat 5.30/8.30 IT'S A DEDUCATO FRAUD BELLY LAUGH! CASE ON DELIVERY By MICHAEL COONEY OF BY RAY COONEY THIS SUPERS FARCE IS AN INSTANT CLASSIC O.T.

tain representatives from dis-EXTRA 3PM MAT DEC 28 HEW YEAR'S EVE BAN HAUST END JAN 4 WYNDHALES 500 1730/344 +++4 PIET COMEDY PIE STD REARDS "ART"

ALBERT FINNEY TOM COURTEMAY KIEN STOTT A new play by Yasmina Raza Tonna. by Chasappira Hampson "The perfect West End play" IoS Ever 6, Man West 2, Ser 8, Sun 5 Edra Xmis Perfe

HAVE YOU To advertise in The Times WRITTEN A BOOK THAT YOU WOULD theatre listings please call our LIKE PUBLISHED? entertainments team on: If so, please write for full details, catalogue and 0171 481 1982 reviews of our books to:

or fax:

0171 481 9313.

Hard act to follow

SHE came up through the New York coffee house/college circuit that nurtured Suzanne Vega and Michelle Shocked, and she still plays the occasional Woody Guthrie song at her shows. But, at 26, Ani DiFranco is a new, tougher breed of folk singer from a different generation. A lesbian role model and tirelessly independent entrepreneur (all eight of her albums have been released on her own Righteous Babe record label), she uses her songs to explore her emotions in forthright lan-

guage and often self-lacerat-

ing detail. Onstage, she runs a tight ship. At the LA2 she was accompanied only by drum-mer Andy Stochansky and bass player Sara Lee (formerly of the Gang of Four). At the front DiFranco cut a strong, slightly severe figure in black waistcoat and trousers, a ring through her nose, hair short and tufty. Her banter between songs was friendly but highly strung, as she jokily com-plained about always playing to audiences full of expatriate seeing her reflection in a mirror and the nerve of cer-

**NEW AUTHORS** PUBLISH YOUR WORK ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography. Religious, Poetry, Children's.
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE MATER MINERVA PRESS

 $\overline{\mathbf{B}\mathbf{G}}$ 

The Book Guild Ltd.,

Editorial Office (STD/9)

25 High St, Lewes,

East Sussex, BN7 2LU.

POP

Ani DiFranco LA2, WC1

tribution companies in Europe who seem to think they have something to do with her record company. have something to do This led neatly into Napoleon, a stern warning of the perils musicians face when accepting the corporate shilling.

She paused several times to wrap black tape around the fingers of her right hand, a sensible precaution given the ferociously percussive picking style which she used to propel numbers such as Blameless. with its clipped, funky undertow and jazz-like scat

interludes. While many of her songs were driven by a quietly seething anger, there was poetry in her words. The wind is ruthless/The trees shake angry fingers at the sky," she sang in Done Wrong, an unbearably poignant number in which her voice rose from the merest whisper to a raging snarl and

back again. It was a mightily impressive display which confirmed that DiFranco has the talent to become a major international star, capable perhaps of occupying a niche somewhere between Tori Amos and Alanis Morissette. Whether she will allow it to happen is another

DAVID SINCLAIR

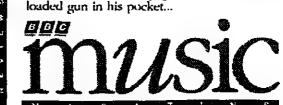
**BECAUSE GOOD** MUSIC NEEDS A GREAT RECORDING. TUNE INTO OUR CD COLLECTION CALL 01722 332266

saterday 11 and senday 12 january 1997 HAMLET SYMPOSIUM D MOLIÈRE'S DOM JUAN THURY DANIEL MESGUICH (La Métaphore) GRAND PLACE HILE - TEL : 33 3 20 14 24 24

> Show Pavarotti a bent rusty nail and he'll sing like a dream.

Musicians' superstitions are legendary. None more so than Pavarotti's, one of which is to find

a bent rusty nail before he'll go on stage. As well as all the usual features, articles and exclusive CD, BBC Music Magazine has some hilarious tales, including the one about a conductor who'd only go on stage with a



## حكذا بن الاحل

## Mourning, the consolation of a philosopher

Daniel Johnson on the moral and intellectual legacy of Gillian Rose

not only an intellectual but also a practical problem: it is not easy to turn the eternal into the everyday. Mourning, which is active evocation and commemoration rather than a passive sense of loss, still seems the best and most natural response to death. The young Robert Burns wrote a dirge entitled Man was made to Mourn. and anyone who has been bereaved knows what solace the act of

lamentation may bring. Mourning is a state of mind unlike any other sadness, in that it cannot be cancelled out by happiness: time may soothe the pain of grief, but the sense of absence absolute, a loss without hope of finding. Not even new life - the birth of a child or grandchild, say
—can compensate for death. Hence reflections on mortality and immortality always have a funereal

prepared to contemplate our own finiteness at another's obsequies. Although mourning is natural, it must still be learnt. Small children do not understand death but they have some inkling of its horror. Soon after the death of her greatgrandmother, my three-year-old daughter asked me whether she, too, would one day have to die. When I said yes, she burst into tears, wailing: "I don't want to die!" Not even the prospect of being reunited with Great Granny in

Heaven could console her. "I may die before my time." wrote Gillian Rose, the outstanding

philosopher of her generation. She did. exactly a year ago: still in her forties, with all to live for. She had endured cancer for three years. and made the most of her time on death row by writing three books. The only one to appear while she was still alive was Love's Work.

harrowingly beautiful and teasingly indiscreet autobiographical meditation, which has reached a wide readership here and

Love's Work revealed the evolution of Gillian's thinking from reason to revelation, from a secularised Jewish background via utopian Marxism to an ever-deeper thought. Her deathbed conversion to Anglican Christianity scandalised some, but she saw her whole life as the preparation for this supreme epiphany. Her baptism was the end of her crucifixion. She believed in order that she might understand her own disbelief; her philosophy understood the world in order to make belief possible again.

The first of what will be two posthumous books by Gillian Rose takes mourning as one of its central themes. Mourning Becomes the Law: Philosophy and Representa-tion (Cambridge University Press, £9.95 paperback) brings together her political and religious ideas, to focus on one great perennial ques-tion: what is the law, mundane or transcendent, and whence does it derive its legitimacy?

in the first chapter of this strenuously demanding but rewarding book, "Athens and Jerusalem: a tale of three cities", Gillian Rose surveys the wasteland of our age from the vantage point of an intellectual determined to overcome her alienation. Athens is the city of rational politics: Jerusalem is its opposite, a Utopian community: while the invisible, internalised third city is that of capitalism, private property and modern legality. Modernity has also misbegotten a fourth city, the antithesis of

Tetting over bereavement is not only an intellectual but also a practical problem: it also a practical the task of reinvigorating a disenchanted humanity which squats in

the ruins of hallowed civilisations. The book has on its dustjacket a painting which meant a great deal to her: Poussin's The ashes of Phocion collected by his widow. The statesman Phocion, 40 times governor of Athens, was unjustly condemned for treason and forced to paison himself with hemlock. His burial within the city walls was forbidden and to complete his disgrace, his corpse was cremated by a foreigner and was left

Poussin's canvas is dominated by the Acropolis and its splendid buildings, but in the foreground Phocion's widow is gathering up her husband's ashes while her

maid looks out for danger. In discussing this picture Gillian Rose recalls her correspondence with Sister Wendy Beckett, the popular art historian, who had devoted one of her BBC2 programmes to the Poussin. Sister Wendy saw the widow's defiance of the arbitrary tyranny of Athens, symbolised by the gleaming temples in the background, as an act of perfect love and self-sacrifice, which she equated with the idealised ethics of Jerusalem. Gillian Rose, the political philosopher, gently rebuked Sister Wendy. the anchoress, for her unworldli-

ness: "The gathering of the ashes is

a protest against arbitrary power: it is not a protest against power and law as such ... To acknowledge and to re-experience the justice and injustice of the partner's life and death is to accept the law, it is not to transgress it - mourning becomes the law." What did Gillian Rose

mean by her cardinal

idea. "mourning be-comes the law"? Most

studious of women, the young Gillian sympathised with campus revolutionaries. Her first book, The Melancholy Science, acknowledged advice from Ulrike Meinhof, a West German journalist who became the co-leader of the notorious Baader-Meinhof terror-ist group, and killed herself in 1976

while in prison. Meinhof's tragedy intellectuals - "Hitler's children" - but it was also an extreme case of a more general Western malaise that afflicted the 1968 generation: the politics of ideological despair.

B ut Gillian's politics moved on, and in her later writings she sought to reconcile the alienated intelligentsia to legitimate political activity per se. Her own mourning of the lost Utopia of the New Left had, especially since 1989 and the "end of history". become a fascination with the state. the church and their common

Gillian Rose was prescient not only about her own death, but also her friends' sense of loss, a loss which she refused to countenance. "I am living my dying," she used to tell us. She is gone all the same. There is solace in company. Her family. friends and students gathered recently in Bloomsbury to hear readings, to reminisce and to mourn. Jesus said: "Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted." We are still waiting to be comforted. Yet, as Gillian herself wrote, "The work of mourning is difficult but not interminable." If

the starting point, of her influence,

her mourning is our consolation and her transfiguration.

The perils of writing about the living or the recently dead demand discretion, says Tom Pocock

A a biography would come easily to a journalist. After all, it is only an extended interview: 100,000 words instead of 1,000. But then the obstacles began to appear the subject's self-regard, false memories and, most worryingly, the clatter of skeletons tumbling out of

cupboards.

Also, whereas the journalist could feel supported by the power of the press, this would be an encounter of individuals, one to one. The biographer could become aware that his, or her, subject was so much more interesting and important than himself. Could one have half-emulated the leats of this war hero, or written anything half

so memorable as this literary bion?

Of course not.

So, first of all, a degree of inferiority must be overcome, but not to the extent that breeds a chippiness. The relationship between biographer and his living subject is a delicate one. Am I a magistrate or a counsellor? Am I asking what to him, or her, and to me, sounds an impertinent ques-tion because it is important to understanding, or because I want

to cut him down to my size?
When a biography is "authorised", and the biographer depends upon his subject's cooperation, the problems are obvious. Does he ask the embarrassing questions and, if so, does he accept an answer he suspects is, at best, evasive? If the subject seems to have How a biographer survives a survivor

archbishop, does he publish and be damned as a betrayer of confidences? If he sticks to the agreed rules and his subject's veto, does he write a second book a couple of years later which, it might be argued disingenuously, is not ham-pered by such constraints? If the biographer yields to that temptation, he can expect serialisation in a Sunday newspaper and also, per-haps, blackballing by the literary club he had hoped to join.

Having attempted two books about living people and recognised that because of scruples, the por-traits were not as rounded as they might have been, I turned to subjects who had died within living memory. On these voyages of discovery, the surf could also be heard breaking on the reefs. Families and friends may have cultivatreluctant to risk challenge, let alone demolition, even if neither is the

biographer's intention. There was the Edwardian literary lion, whose grandson - a tired but with a reputation for ferocity when roused - was guardian of the flame. His grandfather's imaginative prose was obviously vulnerable to amateur Freudian analysis, and an overkill of psychobabble had recently been applied by another biographer who, the guardian made it clear, would risk grievous bodily harm if he again sought access to the archives.

A nother literary figure had, his daughter confided, been a philanderer, and she was reluctant to see his achievements diminished by scandal. The agreed solution was that she would provide all possible help - including access to unpublished letters and diaries - on condition that she could be the first to read the typescript and, if necessary, censor it. She agreed that the philandering could not be ignored but the biographer had no wish to make a meal of it and a compromise was reached, the daughter showing

particular mistress had been a major influence on the writer's life and work - and she was not only alive but still married to a famous husband who might, or might not, be aware of her infidelity. It was unnecessary to name her in the. book, only to identify her by a few references to those who already knew the story.

Having no wish to embarrass, this biographer tried to warn the lady in question that she would not be recognisable to readers of her late lover's biography. This proved impossible, since she lived abroad and a mutual friend, who agreed to convey the message, lost heart at the thought of the husband opening his latest by middle open his letter by mistake, or picking up

a telephone extension. So, without such a warning to the former mistress, the book was to the biographer, the lady met him by chance at the house of another mutual friend, where the book was prominently displayed on a drawing-room table. Did she realise who questions about his subject that he had longed to ask? I will never know; we talked only about the

Such near misses have prompted me to adopt the Hundred Year Rule. When the subject has been dead for a century there will be no snarls from defensive friends, and even descendants will be likely to see failings as entertaining, if not

Yet here, too, are problems. After months of reading letters, diaries and accounts by contemporaries, the biographer will have got as close to his subject as the laws of mortality will allow.

One danger is that without an animate being to concentrate upon, the vacuum is filled by the biographer himself identifying with his subject: "I can see why you wrote about him," they will say. Or, as the author may know more about his character than anybody else, there is the risk of becoming proprietorial. The discovery of a letter showing the subject acting out of character — or what it was assumed to be — can prompt a Lady Bracknellish reaction worthy of an outraged friend or relation: "He would never have behaved like

Tom Pocock's most recent book is A Thirst For Glory: The Life of Admiral Sir Sidney Smith (Aurum

## Desperately seeking sainthood

Evita Peron had everything it took to achieve secular canonisation

Great's granddaughburgha was a child, parents set her a test. They asked her to choose between a pile of jewellery and a Bible. The girl was no fool. She chose the Bible.

She was revered, feted and eventually canonised St Eadburgha. These days she would be declared BBC Personality of the The craze for secular saints

seems to know no bounds. Its climax, or nadir, is the current competition for the nation's most distinctive personality run by BBC Radio's Today Show. The contest testifies to the maxim that tabloid journalism is best eft to tabloids.

nalists were blatantly nominated by suggestion on tive Party traditionally organised this award for

cher, who won it seven times while at No 10. She was pipped in 1990 when the supporters of one Lai Krishan Advani out-organised the Tories and the contest was declared invalid by the ever-loyal BBC. This year the party got its act together and delivered John Major as the only male finalist.

There are things that the Conservatives can still do well. Labour's response was too obvious and fell into the Advani trap. Tony Blair's nomination was banned.

Any contest that pits a prime minister against a Burmese free-dom lighter, and the two of them against a group of fame-for-a-day heroines, has to be daft. An outcome that is decided by who can organise the most anonymous telephone votes is a contest in button-

pushing.

Will the anti-gun lobbyists outvote the anti-homosexual lobby-ists? Will the wounded teacher outvote the brave widow? The BBC claims to be combining the public's yearning for saints with its love of a horse race. Lord Reith would cry from his spinning grave, what is wrong with the saints (and horse races) you have already? The

Alfred The answer is that they cannot be at's granddaugh- granted a heckle-free interview on the Today programme, that mod-ern ceremony of beatification. Either way it would surely make more sense to use MORI or Gallup. Which brings me to Evita Peron. Nobody ever heckled her on the radio. She was the secular saint of

the century, now reincarnated by the anti-saint. Madonna. The original stage portrayal by Elaine Paige was cynical, kitsch and great fun The film version is reportedly brilliant. The theme of both is that since all power is corrupt and founded on cosmetic appeal, why not do it in style? Make the politician a saint and have done

enon testified to the charisma of this woman. She the age of 33, or as she put it, 31. Her life story — poor

turned mediocre actress turned fascist moll - was banal. What no dramatisation can reproduce is her manipulation of crowds, and thus her skill at collectivising human responses to her appeal.

There have been many explanations for the success of Peronism in the 1940s. It mobilised the new industrial working class (Evita's Descamisados) against landed wealth. It grew fat on the postwar boom in commodity prices. But Evita's extortion from the rich to sustain her incipient welfare state was highly personalised. It bribed her husband's trade union supporters, substituting veiled menace for tax enforcement. She personally handed out benefits to the poor each week in front of the cameras an idea John Major might consider in his hour of need.

This was politically unremarkable. What was astonishing was Evita's ability to move a mob beyond tears to a sort of mystical adoration. Her public life seems to have been conducted before a perpetual mass congregation. She was loved by the poor for her attacks on the rich. She finally renounced the cry of the crowd for



Evita the adored: "a messenger with little by way of a message"

her to become vice-president in 1951, doing so on a giant "bridge of love" next to her husband while aeropianes wrote her name in vapour in the sky.

In her last great speech, Evita, dying of cancer, cried out over a throng estimated at a million in central Buenos Aires that she would one day return to them. She beseeched them to love Peron as she loved them. "La vida por Peron", she cried, and collapsed in pain in the arms of her presidential

This was political theatre of a high order. Pandemonium broke out across Argentina. Shrines festooned every church and Masses were sung. Miracles were duly declared. And when the dying Evita voted for her husband from her hospital bed, women knelt to kiss the urn carrying her ballot

Evita achieved the anotheosis of dying young and thus living for

years, she cooks great vats of pheasant soup which she dishes out after the Mass every year. "It was a bit of a bombshell at first,"

she says, "but it will be quite

straightforward. We shall have the

simple Series II Communion ser-

vice followed by soup and chat."

ever. Her body was embalmed and carted around the world (with decoy facsimiles to dely thieves), it was returned to Buenos Aires after Peron's short-lived restoration to power in 1974. It now rests in the Recoleta cemetery, where the tomb is said to be proof not just against grave robbers but against a nuclear

In his biography of Evita, Nicholas Fraser argued that she was not a true cult. She was certainly vilified by the anti-Peronists who later put her clothes, including her underwear, on public display and portrayed her as "a whore with a whip". It was hopeless. The clothes were seized as instant relics. The sceptical writer V.S. Naipaul was mesmerised by the respect for her sanctity. "She is without dates or politics," he wrote after her death. Even her successor in Peron's affection, Isabelita, venerated her remains and brushed the hair on her cadaver.

Small wonder the film script of Evita was handled with kid gloves as it travelled the globe. Watched by a horrified Argentine nation, it made its sorry way from Ken Russell to Zeffirelli to Attenborough to Coppola to Oliver Stone. Evita's bird-like ghost took on the more substantial forms of Faye Dunaway, Meryl Streep, Liza Minnelli, Diane Keaton, Michelle Pfeiffer and finally Madonna. The last at least had the qualification of craving the part as much as had Evita herself.

As Fraser concludes, Evita has thus achieved the immortality she yearned for -- "within the limits prescribed by the late 20th century". A standard jest among Washington officials is that the key to your reputation in a crisis is who gets to play you in the movie.

Evita's record was, to put it mildly, dubious. She was a messenger with little by way of a message voice with few words. But she touched a nerve deep in a people's subconscious.

Naipaul saw her cult as rooted in Latin admiration for sexual allure combined with female submission. Her renunciation of vice-presidenferminine piety. The Juan and Evita show was "the passion play of dictatorship", arbitrary power atoned by love. Hence the Masses. the shrines and the miracles in her name, all of which continue to this

n application to canonise Evita was made to The Vatican after her death. It was made by the Argentine trade union movement and was short-lived. Evita would appear to fail on a number of counts. But modern sainthood, like that of the early Middle Ages, takes many forms. It can also involve the most improbable subjects. Secular sanctity lies not with the authority of any church. It lies in the minds of readers, viewers and listeners.

This sainthood is merely the cult of personality. Its temple is the media. I have no doubt that a reincarnated Evita would sweep the *Today* programme shortlist. Like Violetta in *La Traviata*, she would die with a quiver of love on her lips and the nation would go

-2000-00000

Territa.

\*\*\* \* \*\*

97.

As for Madonna, I have an uncomfortable feeling that her team, with a battery of telephones, could achieve victory for her too. Perhaps they should have launched

## Cook and tell

STEAMED puddings are the fuel driving the Conservative campaign machine, according to Chandos Elletson, until the summer head chef at Conservative Central Office. He is in the middle of writing a book detailing the eating habits of his Tory former paymasters. Elletson, 44, is the brother of Harold Elletson, Conservative MP for Blackpool North, and ran the CCO kitchens for a year. "I call my book a cook and tell,"

Pickles: more pudding

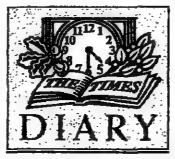
says Elletson. He reveals that when he was cooking there. Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, loved egg and chips, much against the wishes of his staff who wanted to keep him on healthy salads. When he felt like a proper plateful. Mawhinney would have to call down to the kitchens on his private line and whisper for "the usual". It would then be brought

from his secretaries. Eric Pickles, MP for Brentwood and Ongar, according to Elletson is "a man who likes his food", a fact obvious from even the most perfunctory look at his robust physique. He and Sir Graham Bright, MP for Luton South, both important Central Office figures, would order special helpings of Elletson's tremendous steamed puddings at peculiar times of day.

up to him to disappointed snorts

Douglas Hurd, says Elletson, was a quite extraordinary trencherman. He will not, however, reveal any more. "Hurd is just too good," he teases. "I am saving it for the

■ Any spare Christmas cheer



Laurie, comedian. On Thursday evening, at a party for Rowan Atkinson's production company, Laurie played the keyboards in a band led by Lenny Henry. He looked as though he had just found a hole in his favourite trousers.

The never seen Hugh looking so down, "said one guest. He was just completely Les Miserables." His agent, clearly suffering from the same ennui, angrily declined to offer an explanation.

#### Night moves

LINCOLN Cathedral's loss is the village of Partney's gain this year as the Bishop of Lincoln, tired of the in-fighting among his dears, is de-camping there for Christmas. The Rt. Rev Robert Hardy will be preshould be pushed the way of Hugh siding over midnight mass at the

village's 14th century church.
"After the Bishop announced his boycott of the cathedral," says Canon Raymond Rodger, the Bish-op's personal assistant, "he asked the rural dean if there was a vacant parish. Partney was suggested and the Bishop accepted."

The parishioners, who have not had an incumbent vicar for over a year and were contemplating cancelling the service, are now hard at their preparations, led by the unflappable Miss T.M. Maddison. Currently bowling through her eighties and a churchwarden for 12



Lucky dip CHRISTMAS in the White House is traditionally a Bing Crosby sort of affair, but the Clintons are doing their best to give it a twist. Guests arriving for the round of thankyou-for-your-support dinners this week are asked to reach into a glass bowl from which they pick out a

table number and place at random.

Each table is hosted by one of the

Clintons or one of the Gores. The Vice-President and his wife are reportedly showing an excess of affection on the dance floor. An explanation has at last been offered for the sinister container truck parked by the White House recently. It is the egg nog truck. For two parties only, it pumped out 40 gallons of the stuff.

Age game EARLIER this week, Queen Eliza-beth the Queen Mother hosted her



annual dinner in the library of the Travellers Club in Pall Mall, her favourite room in London. She was wandering down the splendid main staircase when she came upon Monsignor Gilbey, the former Catholic chaplam to Cambridge University and now a permanent resident of the club, pottering up to bed:

Gilbey, 95, has always been a huge admirer of the Queen Mother, but to his great frustration had

never met her. Recognising Gilbey, the Queen



Monsignor Gilbey and the Queen Mother, esprit d'éscalier

Mother said "Excuse me, I believe I'm a year older than you are."
"You can't be," said Gilbey, his quiet walk disturbed. There is only one woman a year

older than me, and that's the Queen Mother." And on he carried to his room.

The Queen Mother paused for a

moment, then ambled off as well. She has booked the room again for



## NO ELGIN, NO MARBLES

A civilised case for keeping the glory of the British Museum



A contrast must strike anyone who looks at the frieze of sculptures from the Parthenon and who contemplates the political battle which has raged around them in recent years. Phidias's craftsmen made marble ripple like waves: the procession which they depict is fluid, thrilling and intriguing. The war of words over the marbles' location is precisely the opposite: static and predictable exchanges take place with fixed weaponry.

An undaunted Greek Government has launched the latest of many diplomatic and public relations campaigns to remove the Elgin Marbles from the British Museum and restore them to Athens. To judge by the media headlines, the case for moving the marbles is gaining ground. The Government in Athens is preparing a contract to build a new museum to house the frieze. Members of the European Parliament have signed a petition for restitution. A fashion for sending objects of importance "back home" is taking hold. America has sent Mycenean gold back to Greece; France is considering giving the Hottentot Venus back to South Africa. Many now see Lord Elgin as a thief, albeit of fine pedigree, and the sculptures as stolen goods that should be given back to their rightful Greek owners.

egg donor

en og skylen Such

\*\*\*\*

This tide of opinion has not yet, however, become a tide of events. Although the Greek Government has hinted at legal action before the European courts, no move has been made. The European Union has no authority over the marbles; neither the International Court of Justice nor the European Court of Human Rights has any better locus. Attempts in the 1970s and 1980s to agree universal restitution guidelines have all failed. The planned museum remains a speculative gamble and may come to be one of the most expensive pieces of architectural blackmail ever constructed. Aside from the museum, the Greek case has barely altered for the past 25 years. The late' Melina Mercouri was an advocate with

flair, but with no new themes. The case for the return of the marbles remains essentially that the Parthenon is a building of unique significance to Greek national culture. This argument deserves tougher scrutiny than it usually receives: The Parthenon was the symbol of one Both places are unburdened by ownership frequently very unpopular Greek city whose legacy of art, thought and democracy has only recently been honoured close to home. The disputed works were one small part of the Parthenon, almost invisible to the building's original users and neglected by their writers. "No Elgin, No Marbles" is a saying that does not just apply to the rescue of the works from decay, bombing and pollution: it is when sited in London and inspiring some of the greatest romantic and classical artists in Europe, that the marbles

have become themselves. Ideas and images do shape national cultures; but they are also exchanged between them with extraordinary case. The work of ancient Greeks moulded modern Europe's ideas of itself. After James Stuart and Nicholas Revett anchored in an obscure corner of the Ottoman empire in 1751, their sketches of Athenian ruins and remains began a fashion for all things Greek which flowered for more than a century and remains alive to this day.

When they went on show in London in 1807, the Elgin Marbles took firm root in British life. William Hazlitt, one of the first men gripped by the thrill of gazing on matchless carving, said that the procession of horses, chariots, warriors, bulls, priests and children "do not seem to be the outer surface of a hard and immovable block of marble, but to be actuated by an internal machinery, and composed of the same soft and flexible materials as the human body". The marbles inspired Keats, Hardy, Haydon and many others; the relationship between marbles and museum fascinated Forster, Virginia Woolf and Louis Mac-Neice. Politicians and philosophers came also under the spell.

After support for Greek resistance to Ottoman rule came into fashion, enthusiasm for a long-neglected culture passed back to Greek nationalists. But the Parthenon's importance emerged from the research of British and German scholars. Accusations of cultural imperialism, sometime made by Greeks complaining of Elgin's removal of the marbles to London, are a dangerous weapon in a Europe where so much intellectual traffic has travelled in so many directions over so many centuries.

Englishmen even taught Greeks to resent Lord Elgin. The most elequent case for the marbles' return came from an Englishman resident in America. Until the rebirth of modern Greece after the Second World War, the dispute over the marbles was conducted entirely by Britons. Postwar Greek complaints about the removal of artefects can be found, but they include hardly a mention of

Today roughly 40 per cent of the marbles remain in Athens, 60 per cent in London; other fragments reside in Palermo, Rome, Copenhagen, Paris and Heidelberg. A complete plaster reconstruction of the frieze already exists in Basie, and the British Museum is negotiating to help the construction of another in Nashville, Tennessee. arguments over a treasure which belongs to the world; but their desire to show as much of Phidias's work as they can suggests a way out for everyone.

The British Museum has accumulated 150 years of experience in reproducing the frieze; before the war, the marbles were displayed alongside reproductions of the remaining segments. Could Greece not be offered that expertise to display the frieze's full sequence. using high-quality reproductions of the portions in London? Cultural nationalists would not be satisfied, but millions of tourists would see and learn much more than they can now. Moving the marbles solves nothing. Completing them, in London, Athens and imaginative places elsewhere, would be to spread the message of this miracle of man's art.

#### ARCANE, HE CALLS IT

The voters know a wriggling politician when they see one

Sometimes it is easy to despair of this Government. True, it has no majority; granted, it is riven by arguments over Europe. There is an unmistakable smell of defeatism in the parliamentary ranks. But so many of the Tories' problems arise not from these circumstances: they are entirely of the leadership's own making. The case of the cheating whips is a prime example of selfinflicted damage made worse by the Prime Minister's misjudged response yesterday.

Behind the adversarial public face of Parliament lies an intricate network of cooperation between opposing parties. "The usual channels" are used to negotiate anything from the timetabling of a Bill, the membership of committees to future business in the House - plus, of course, the pairing of absent MPs.

Crucially, these back-office workings of Parliament depend upon trust. That trust was betrayed on Monday, when a Tory pairing whip. Derek Conway, was caught double dealing in an attempt to fix a vote. As it happened, the Government would have won the vote anyway: but the whip did not know that the Unionists were behind him when he did his nefarious work. Had they gone the other way, the Government would

have won the vote only thanks to his deeds. Mr Conway's action itself was wrong and misconceived. But the reaction to it by senior ministers has made a bad situation so much worse. Yesterday the Prime Minister, no less, dismissed the crime as "an arcane dispute" and added: "quite what misunderstandings occurred here I don't know." He

has had four days to find out. His deputy, Michael Heseltine, was just as dismissive, and equally slippery, when the affair was first exposed. He claimed to know nothing about what went on in the Whips' Office - which is odd enough for a. parliamentarian of 30 years' experience, but

even odder for the man put up by the party expressly to field questions about what went on in the Whips' Office.

Norman Tebbit, never a politician to hold back when ruthless measures needed to be taken, has also described Mr Conway's action as "cheating". He claims to have talked to three former Conservative Chief Whips, all of whom agreed with him. "This is no way," he said, "for the Tories to win an

election." He is absolutely right. What Messrs Major and Heseltine seem not to realise is that most members of the public do not approve of cheating. When a cheater is caught, they expect at least contrition, if not a straightforward apology. Even the most amoral of politicians could surely see that it is in the Conservatives' interests not to attempt to minimise what everybody else recognises as an offence. They should have come clean, expressed embarrassment that it had ever happened and promised to ensure that it would not

happen again. Now that the ruse has been exposed, it could not be repeated anyway. Why not make a virtue of having clamped down on sharp practices? Why not apologise for overzealotry and make a token sacrifice in the Whips' Office? Instead the Prime Minister has tried to pretend that nothing bad happened in the first place, and has insulted the intelligence of voters by claiming that it was too arcane for them to

understand. If Mr Major wonders why he and his party are unpopular, he should stop looking at the favourable economic statistics and begin to examine the aura that surrounds his administration. Sleaze is followed by dissembling, made worse by dodgy dealing and compounded throughout by an inability to apologise. Could that possibly explain the Tories' lamentable performance in the polls?

## Call for clarity on

From Colonel W. A. Allen,

Royal Tank Regiment (retd)

It must now be beyond doubt that the type of Europe which Mr Major

tives: to accept the progressive loss of political and economic sovereignty which continued membership of the EU on present terms will bring, or seek to renegotiate a purely trading re-lationship with the Union, similar to that we thought we were voting for in

The choice is urgent. As EMU is introduced, as majority voting is inevitably extended and as membership of the Union widens, our negotiating position will become progressively weaker.

The solution is in Mr Major's hands. Rather than hanging on until May in the hope that something will turn up, he should call a general election early in the new year seeking a mandate to renegotiate our membership as a purely trading partner, cooperating in other joint ventures if and when it is in our mutual interests.

This would be in the nation's interest, in Europe's interest and in his party's interest. It would accord closely with the wishes of a clear majority of the British electorate, it would avoid our acting as a continuing obstacle to what the rest of Europe appears to want, and it is the only possible way in which his party could win the next

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY ALLEN, Pool House, Long Street Great Ellingham, Norfolk.

From Mr John Redwood, MP for Wokingham (Conservative)

eral of the British Bankers' Association and others (December 16) is right that it is in Britain's interests that any new European currency should be legal. The problem with the euro is that it is a different currency from the ecu set out in the treaty.

treaty amendment to legalise the euro. The letter you published is quite wrong to say the other member states can press on with the euro without our votes to try to legalise it.

not insist on legalising the euro prop-

Yours faithfully, House of Commans.

From Miss Adrienne May

Ine Itmes way:		
	1966	1996
Austria Sch	72.2	17.59
Belgium Fr	139.2	51.73
Canada \$	3.09	2.20
France Fr	13.7	8.44
Germany Dm	11.2	2.52
Hong Kong \$	16.l	12.46
Japan Yen	1012.2	186.80
Norway Kr	20.0	10.50
Sweden Kr	14.4	11.14
Switzerland Fr	121	2.14
USA \$	2.79	1.62

Yours faithfully, ADRIENNE MAY. Rurton Close. North Walsham, Norfolk.

#### A soldier's identity

wore "identity discs". Yours faithfully, J. D. FAGE. Hafod Awel.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## progress to EMU

Sir, Despite Mr Major's denials, there is now every indication that the political momentum behind EMU in the rest of Europe is so great that it will take place whether it makes economic

says he wants is simply unattainable. Every pronouncement by any other European leader shows a clear determination to achieve a form of union going far beyond anything which would be acceptable to the vast majority of the British people. We have therefore only two alterna-

Sir, The letter from the Director Gen-

Britain should say that it will take a

Recital 8 of the regulation helps undermine the legal status of the euro. It points out that an EC regulation cannot guarantee the legality of the curo outside the 15 member states. There is already one court case under way questioning the euro. There could be many more in the financial markets of New York and Tokyo if Britain does

erly.
We have a veto. We owe it to business to use it to insist on a legal single. currency and to demand European policies that work in the interests of British business. Britain at the moment has a bad deal in Europe. We need to negotiate a better one. When you have a veto there is no need to appease policies which will not work.

JOHN REDWOOD,

Sir. Browsing in Pears Cyclopaedia 1966/67 I find the following exchange rates, dated March 12, 1966. I also cite the tourist rates ("Bank sells") given in

	1966	1996
Austria Sch	72.2	17.59
Belgium Fr	139.2	51.73
Canada \$	3.09	2.20
France Fr	13.7	8.44
Germany Dm	11.2	2.52
Hong Kong \$	16.l	12.46
lapan Yen	1012.2	186.80
Norway Kr	20.0	10.50
Sweden Kr	14.4	11.14
Switzerland Fr	12.1	2.14
USA \$	2.79	1.62
In many of this al	ide in the v	alua of

sterling, why should we wish to retain the pound, and why should we entrust our governments with control of the

December 17.

From Professor J. D. Fage

Sir, What is all this nonsense about the bodies of British soldiers killed in France in 1917 being found wearing "dog-tags" (report, December 16)? As late as our war in 1939-45, we

Pennal, Machynlleth, Powys. December 16.

Weekend Money letters, page 28

## Critical look at the Prince of Wales's approach to Islam

From Dr Ali Wassil

Sir. The Prince of Wales has boldly tackled a battery of mighty topics (re-port and article, "Islamic spirituality and the decline of the West". December 14): God, Islam, the Koran, incarnation, the cosmos, scientific arrogance and tyranny, modern materialsm. our environment, ethics and

morality, BSE ...
A Muslim blessed with many years of Christian, Western and scientific education, enjoying American and British paradise. I know many here will "not buy" the Prince's opinions on such controversial and touchy issues. They will ask: If Islamic society is so good in confronting modern evils, why do so many from Muslim nations desperately escape to USA and Europe? Why so much misery, inequality, injustice, corruption and warfare among Muslims?

Some, too, will question the future occupant of Buckingham Palace and owner of a vast material empire attacking "materialism". Didn't Jesus tell the rich man to first give away all his money before he can find spiritual-

But I hope none of this will detract from the important work of the Prince in promoting respect and understanding between the peoples of the West and Islam. He is doing in Britain what the Muslim Emperor Akbar and the Buddhist Emperor Asoka did in India. I trust women and men of good-will in West and East will wish him great success, insha'Allah!

Peace be with you, **ALI WASSIL** 109 Guilford Street, WC1. December 14.

From Dr Tony Sargent

Sir, During the course of 1994 three Iranian Christians - Bishop Haik Hovsepian-Mehr, Pastor Mehdi Dibaj (an evangelical scholar and theologian who had been imprisoned for nine years) and the Reverend Tateos Michaelian, Presbyterian leader of the Protestant Churches in Iran were all slain by the Islamic authori-

In September this year the body of Pastor Mohammed Yusefi, a 35-yearold minister, was found hanging from a tree in a forest near his home in Gorga. He was the seventh Iranian

tries. The Christian Church in Saudi Arabia has been forced underground; and the situation in Iran is mirrored in Sudan and to a lesser extent in Pakistan and Kuwait. Yet the liberty that Muslims rightfully have to practise and proclaim their faith in the West is beyond dispute.

The Prince's preferred title in a fu-ture role is "Defender of Faith". Many Christians who respect aspects of Islamic culture and the Holy Koran would welcome a royal voice to speak out now against persecution, the be-heading of "apostates" and interpretations of the Koran which permit dis-membering the hands of thieves and the public flogging of adulterers.

Sincerely, TONY SARGENT, Chapel Road. Worthing, West Sussex.

From the Reverend Don Brewin

ent seekers after truth encourage us to recognise it, wherever it exists. As

paints of Islam. Last week I was with

Christian to gain a martyr's crown since the revolution of 1979.

This may explain why my Iranian colleagues tell me that they were astonished to read of Prince Charles's uncritical comments about the Islamic "integrated spiritual view of the world". And even more by his assertion that we should engage in an "exchange of teachers" for we "need to be taught by Islamic teachers how to learn with our hearts as much as with

our heads". Religious teaching other than Islam is prohibited in many Muslim coun-

The Worthing Tabernacle, December 16.

Sir, I am always pleased when emin-

Prince Charles points out, Christianity and Islam agree in challenging the materialistic spirit of our age.

But there is another side to the op-

timistic picture that Prince Charles

a group of Sudanese Christians in northern Uganda. In one of the refugee camps, about a month previously, Muslims had forced them to leave their houses at gunpoint, after which they set fire to the houses and to the bible school where they were studying. Most of them have now found temporary sanctuary in the nearest town, but the threats have followed them, causing fear amongst the students and their families. In spite of this, the

DON BREWIN

comes genuinely from both sides. Yours faithfully. (National Director), SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad), Wickham Cottage, Gaddesden Turn, Billington, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

depth of the Christian faith of these

students and their commitment to the

gospel of peace remain undiminished.

riously the Koranic teaching about

God as the "all-merciful and compas-

sionate" would like to join in con-

demning this overt act of intimi-

dation? Then we might be persuaded

that the call to mutual understanding

Maybe those Muslims who take se-

From Mr Ahmad Bullock

Sir, As a Muslim convert since 1942. with considerable experience of the immigrant community in this country and of Muslims overseas. I must take issue with the Prince of Wales's contention that Islam has any spiritual contribution whatever to make that will "arrest the decline of the West". I believe that the Prince and his ad-

visers are entirely wrong. Take for example the treatment of Muslim women by Muslim men in a matrimonial context — an area in which His Royal Highness can scarcely be said to have an outstanding record. The revelations in your Magazine of December 7, "Till death do us part", of wife abuse in Pakistan apply well beyond that country. They are appalling, they are entirely true, and such behaviour is distributed throughout the social classes equally.

Women are third-class citizens throughout the Muslim world. Yours faithfully, AHMAD BULLOCK

62 Kelburne Road, Oxford.

December 15.

From Mr Kenneth C. Watson Sir. So Prince Charles urges us to learn from Islam. Would HRH like to tell us what we

should learn from the fatwa against Salman Rushdie?

Yours faithfully, K. C. WATSON 9 High Street, Lode, Cambridge. December 16.

#### A rigged vote

From Lord Bridge of Harwich

Sir. Rigging the vote (report and leading article, December 18) is the ultimate negation of democratic values. It is something we expect to happen under fascist dictatorships and in bana-

na republics. Hitherto I think most people believed it just could not happen in our mature democracy at Westminster. But what now? If the Government Whips' Office organised double pairings in the House of Commons on Monday, as reported, this was fla-

grant vote-rigging. It was depressing to watch the eva-sions by members of the Government, including the Deputy Prime Minister, who were questioned about the matter on television last night. Mr Heseltine seemed to imply that, if the vote had been distorted by "byzantine" procedures in the Whips' Office, this was of

This strikes me as setting a new low standard in political morality.

From Mr S. Hugh Mahonev

Yours faithfully, S. HUGH MAHONEY, 23 Guilford Court, Lord Warden Avenue, Walmer, Kent.

#### Aids prevention

From the Chief Executive of

Aids Care Education and Training Sir. Professor Michael Adler (letter, December 11) rightly reminds us of the shortsightedness of Britain's limited commitment to fighting the global spread of Aids. It is clear that 90 per cent of the Aids problem exists in developing nations — those least able to help themselves. Already there is a massive discrepancy between infection and death in the West (ten or more years) and in developing nations

(about one year). This organisation, with many others, has been providing sexual health education programmes in Uganda since 1990. Reports at this year's World Aids Conference showed that rates of HIV infection in some urban areas of that country, for the very first time, were stabilising and even falling. The main reason given was the success of the prevention campaigns. Prevention is still the only real weaey aside for HIV prevention.

come increasingly cost-effective to do

Yours sincerely, PAT MACAULAY, Chief Executive, ACET (Aids Care Education and Training). PO Box 3693. London SW15 2BQ.

ember 17) has oversimplified the legal position in contrasting Hong Kong with Gibraltar. In 1842 by the Treaty of Nanking China ceded the island of Hong Kong in perpetuity. Similarly, in 1860 by the Convention of Peking Britain received a piece of the mainland just across from Hong Kong. This is now downtown Kowloon. It was in 1898 that the New Territories extending inland from Kowloon were added on the basis of a 99-year lease.

Mrs Thatcher did not have to give up the island and south Kowloon. She did so presumably because she recognised that the treaties were, as the Chinese maintained, "unequal", ie, they had been imposed by a superior British force. Yours faithfully.

ALAN LAWRANCE, University of Hertfordshire, Wall Hall Campus. Aldenham, Watford, Herfordshire. December 17.

no consequence, since the Government would have won even without

the double pairings.

Yours faithfully, BRIDGE OF HARWICH (Crossbencher), House of Lords. December 18.

Sir. With Conservative votes now counting double, Labour's lead in the opinion polls does not look so secure.

December 18.

pon we have against Aids. Those who believe that the scale of what is happening across the globe

will not have an impact on our shores and affect the wealth of our nation should think again. Many British businesses owe much of their wealth to the large-scale employment of cheap workers in developing countries. Some Western companies have already become aware of the devastation Aids is likely to wreak on their

It is not only morally right to consider extending our assistance to such Aids-affected nations but it will be-

#### **Hong Kong treaties**

From Dr Alan Lawrance

Sir, Sir Frederic Bennett (letter, Dec-

foreign labour force - and on future profits - and are already setting mon-

#### Soap and flannel

From Mr Nigel Nelson Sir, As an Archers fan I was startled by Matthew Parris's assertion that you'd have to have a rather sad life to wish to employ your spare time keep-ing up with Ambridge" (article, Dec-

ember lő). On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons both of us spend our time in the Commons sitting through live performances of that other, but inferior, national soap opera. Prime Minister's Questions, Is that not even sadder?

NIGEL NELSON (Political Editor), The People. One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, El4. December 17.

With the postal delays that often occur at this time of year, it is useful, where possible, for letters to be faxed to 0171-782 5046. Please give contact telephone numbers.

#### Wise after the event

From the Reverend Ivor

E. L. Scott-Oldfield Sir. Before there is a rush to nominate any present-day "three wise men" (pace Alistair Dickson's entertaining letter on December 17) it might be wiser for all concerned to reflect on the mistakes of their doubtless wellmeaning predecessors, and the dire

consequences of those errors. They arrived approximately two years too late, going in the first instance to the wrong place --- Jerusalem and bringing inappropriate, though mystically correct, gifts to a child. They talked to quite the wrong, and worst person possible - Herod -

and were indirectly responsible for a savage bout of infanticide. Yours faithfully, IVOR E. L. SCOTT-OLDFIELD. He Prior Bolton Street.

Canonbury, Ni. December 17.

From Mrs Rosemary Callender Sir, I would happily invite Yehudi Menuhin, Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh, and David Attenborough as proof that wisdom, in many

guises, is available and appreciated

ROSEMARY A. CALLENDER.

Penn Grove Lodge, 98 Penn Grove Road, Hereford. December 19.

today.

Yours faithfully,

From Mrs Shirley Hughes Sir, I am not sure whether my three personal wise men - George Steiner, Saul Bellow and Richard Dawkins would particularly wish to be present

at the birth of Jesus. Yours faithfully, SHIRLEY HUGHES. 4 Cedars Road, SWL3.

December 17.

Moral education

From Mr Alan Millard Sir, In the light of the moral debate, should day schools be opening on Sundays (report, December 16), or should Sunday schools be opening on weekdays?

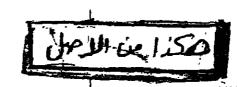
Yours sincerely, ALAN MILLARD, Marine Parade West, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.

### The wrong signals?

From Mr David Elias Sir. You report (December 17) that a stage version of Wallace and Gromit is to tour Britain, "featuring actors in costumes".

Are there any plays that don't? Yours faithfully. DAVID ELIAS.

13 Clumber Crescent North, The Park, Nomingham. December 17.





#### **COURT CIRCULAR**

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** December 20: The Duke of York this morning visited the Leckhampton Headquarters of the Philip Cheltenham. pines Navy, Manila.

His Royal Highness later visited the Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and was received by the Secretary of National Defence (Senor Renato De Villa).

The Duke of York this evening departed the Philip-

nines for London. ST JAMES'S PALACE December 20: The Prince of

Wales, Patron, this afternoon visited the Sue Ryder Home at Court,

His Royal Highness, Pa-tron, afterwards visited Cotswold Care Hospice, Minchinhampton. YORK HOUSE

December 20: The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, the Univer-sity of Surrey, this afternoon presided at a Conferment of Degrees Ceremony, at Guildford Cathedral,

#### Weekend birthdays





Jane Fonda, the actress, is 59 today; Noel Edmonds,

the broadcaster, will be 48 tomorrow TODAY: Mr F.G. Berkeley, former Chief Taxing Master of the Supreme Court, 77; Air Commandant Dame Jean Bromet, former director, WRAF, 84; Mr B.E.S. Collins, former chairman. Nabisco

Group, 73; Miss Chris Evert, tennis player. 42; Mr Bertrand Gachot, racing driver, 34; the Earl of Haddington, 55; Sir James Hill, MP, 70; Mr Walter Hogbin, former chair-man, Taylor Woodrow Inter-national, 59; Mr G.P. Hughes, former tennis player, 94; Mr Peter Johnson, Headmaster, Wrekin College, 49; Sir Fred-erick Lawton, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 85; Mr Geoff Lewis, racehorse trainer, 61: Mr W.M.M. Milligan, former Principal, Wolsey Hall, Oxford, 39; Sir John Nabarro, consultant physician, 81; Mr Steve Perryman, former footballer, 45; Mr Anthony Powell, CH. author, 91; Sir John Quinton, former non-executive chairman, George Wimpey, 67: Flight Lieutenant W. Reid, VC, agricultural consultant, 75; Brigadier V.M. Rooke, former director, Army i Services, /2: Mit Walt ter Spanghero, former rugby player, 53: Mr Greville Whitmore, playwright, 57; Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, jour-Starkey, former jockey, 57; Mr nalist, 73.

Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, .52; Mr Peter Tinuiswood, author. 60; Mr Cyril Townsend, MP, 59; Dr Kurt Waldheim, former President of Austria, 78: Dr Alan Williams, MP. 51; Mr Carl Wilson, singer, 50; Professor Robert Worcester, chairman, MORI, 63.

TOMORROW: Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken, 75; Mr James Burke, broadcaster, 60; Mr Robin Corbett, MP, 63; Viscount Davidson, 68; Miss E M Diggory, Head Mistress, Manchester High School for Girls, 51; Mr Geoffrey Fitchew, chairman, Building Societies Commission, 57; Mr Maurice Gibb and Mr Robin Gibb. singers, 47; Miss Patricia Hayes, actress, 87; Mrs Karin Jonzen, sculptor, 82: Dr Judith McClure, Headmistress. St George's School for Girls. Edinburgh, 70; Sir Trefor Morris, former HM Chief inspector of Constabu-lary, 62; Mr Chris Old, cricketer, 48; the Rev Lord Sandford, 76; Mr M Sheldrick, Governor, Holloway prison, 46; Lord Stott, 87; the Duke of

## Church services tomorrow

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 MP. The angel Gabriel (Carol), The Dean; 3.15 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Hall blessed Virgin Mery (Italian Carol), Orbis Factor (kyrie), Mass of the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd), Es is ein Ros' Fraetorius; 3.30 Service of Nine Lessons &

BIEMINGHAM CATHEDRAL 9 MP, 9, 15 HC 11 Choral Euch. M. Brevis/Ave maris stella (Palestrina), Gabriel's Message (Petiman), Canon D Lee: 4 Choral E, Responses (Sanders), Stanford in A, Ave maris stella (Monteverdi), Canon R Bolland.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M. Christopher's Carol (Bertalot), Caton A Hindley, 10.30 Euch, Mass for five voices (Bytd), Caton J. Hall: 4 Choral E. Angelus ad Virginem (Catter), The Provest,

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, !! H Euch, Plainsong,
Canon E John; 3:30 E, Walmisley in D minot.
Responses (Moriey), Christmas Oratorio part I
(Bach); 6.15 Advent Carol Service in St Mary's
L'hurch.

ERISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8
HC: 10 Choral Euch, Advent Antiphon, Mass for
four voices (Byrd), Prepare thyself Zion (Bach),
Canon Alastair Redferm: 3.30 Choral E, Advent
Prose, Responses (Clucas), Dyson in D, Rotate
Caeli (Byrd), Canon P Johnson.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S
Euch, Missa S Joannis de Deo (Haydn), O
Emmanuel (Stratagier), Bev Dr M J Chandler;
3.15 E, Responses (Piccolo), O Emmanuel, Tone II
solemn and Wood in 8 Ha; This is the record of
John (Gibbons); 6.30 Compline, Rev R H C
Symon.

John (Globons): 6.30 Compline, Rev R H C Symon.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G. I sing of a malden (Berkeley). Canon C Hill; 3.30 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.

CHELMSPORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP. 8 HC; 9.30 Buch, Rev J Jones: 11.15 S Euch, Salve Regina (Plainsong). Agnus Del, Canon B Thompson: 6 Choral E Responses (Tallis). O Rex Gentium, Sumsion in G. Ave María (Paure), Rev J Jones.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany: 8 HC; 10 Choral E Mass for four voices, (Byrd), Rejoice in the Lord (Anon). Ecce virgo concipier (Issac), Rev T Barker; 1.30 Choral M. Responses (Symd), Dyson in F. This is the record of John (Clobons), The Dean: 3.30 Choral E & Baptism, Responses (Smith), And the Glory of the Lord (Handel); 6.30 Carol Service, Canon DrT Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 3 HC; 10 M, Naylor in G, Responses (Smith), Tonus Peregrinus, Fait Queen of Heaven (Burgon), Rt Rev M Maddocks; 11 S Euch, Missa Pervis (Palestrina), There is no use Goutbern, Canon G Hall; 5 E; 6 Carol Service, CINIEST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Orders: 1 HC; 10 M, Benedicies (Sumsion in G), Canon Ward; 11.15 \$ Euch, Missa venatorum (Lassus), O sacrum convivium (Messajen), Canon Jeffery; 6 & Second Service, This is the record of John (Globons).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Fuch, Missa Deus Genton Aime. Leddington

(Glibbons).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP. 8 C; 10.30

Euch, Missa Deus Genitor Alme, Leddington
Wright, Weelkes for Trebles, Canon V Faul; 3

German Lutherans, 3 Polish Lutherans, 3.30 E,
There is no rose (Britten), Responses (Plainsong),
Weelkes for Trebles, And the glory of the Lord

Weekes for Trebles, And the glory of the Lord (Blandell).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.15 HC. Sumsion in F. Adoro te devote (Lloyd), Canon R Coppin; 10 M. Bernedictie and Benedictis in E. Bat and B flat (Stanford), Rejoice in the Lord alway, Canon S Pediey; 13.0 RP. O Emmanuel; 4 Lighting of Christmas Tree and Blessing of Crib; 7 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC. The Dean; 10.30 S Euch. Mass in D (Dvorak), Ave Maris Stella (Grieg), Revd J McCarlane; 3.45 E. Precest Tomkins), Purcell in G minor, Annunciation according to St Luke (Schutz).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Buch. Ave Maris (Arcadelf), Darks in E. Paris angelicus (Saint Saerts), Canon Ison; 11.15 M. Responses (Ferial), Sumsion in 8 flat, Chant A, Rejoice in the Lord (anon). The Treasurer; 3 E. Responses (Ferial), Sumsion (Ord; 6.30 ES, And the glory of the Lord (Handel), The Priess Vicar.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch (ASB), Darks in E. Rejoice in the Lord (anon). Rt Res J. Baker; 1.15 M. Responses (Smith), Benedicite in 8 flat (Sumsion), Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell), The Sub-Dean; 6.30 ES, Noble in 8 minor. This is the record of John (Globons), Canon Dr M Palmer.

LEJCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30

Palmer.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch. Meise Solennelle (Langlais), 0 magnum mysterium Poulenci. The Treasurer; 4 Carol Service. The Provost.
LICHTELLO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; (0.10 5 Euch. Missa O guam giorinsum (Victoria), Hymne a is vierge (Villette), Hail blessed Virgin Mary (art. Wood). Carhestral Chamber Cluir. The Desnr. 3.30 E. Responses (Rose), Wood in E flat N 2, Ave Maria (Mendelsschi).

(Mendelssohn).
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8, 12 HC; 9.30 S
Euch, Kyrie, Sanctus & Benedicius (Durufie).
Missa in simplicitate (Langias). The Dean: 1.15
M. Benedicits in 8 Hat (Sumston), Responses
(Aylesward); 2 Rotary Carol Service: 3.45 E.
Reponses (Smith), Tone II and Stanford in G.
Tonus hous (Correcti).
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC: 10.30
Euch, Canon M Boyling: 1 The Holly Bough Carol
Service: 4 HC. MANCHESTER CATREDRAL 8.45 MF, 9 HC; 10.30 5 Euch Durte in F. Missa C Berter Bennen; 7 Messiah.

NEWCASTLE CATHEORAL: 7.30 M; 6 HC, Canon gende farr. A Carter, Mr D Harte, 6 Choral E. ( Fing of a maken (Berkeley), Responses (Ayleward), Stanford in G, There is no rose (J Joubert) NEWPORT CATTLEDRAL: 1030 5 Euch. Missa O

magnum mysterium "//\_toria), Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Wisc): 6.30 Choral E. Purcell in G minor. Angelus ad virginem [D Willocks], NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP, 8 HC, 10.30 S Euch, Missa ad Pracsepe (Malcolim), Short Service (Ayleward), Torus tius (Gopreck), The Archicacon of Norwich; 3.30 EP. 6 Christman Procession with

CATOLS.
PETERBOROUGH CATHEORAL: 9.30 M. Short Service (Batten); 10.30 Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Mrs B Howit: 3.30 E, Dyson In F, Mary's Magnificat (Carter). Magnificat (Carter).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Parish
Communitor, Mass of St Thomas (Thome), Ave
Maria (Arcadeit), Rev M Macvicar: 11 S Ruch.
Hymn to the Mother of God (Tavener), Missa de
angelis (Painsong), Totas Trus (Goreck), Rev M
Macvicar, 6.30 Festival of Leisona and Carols.

Marvicar, 0.30 Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Ripon Carthedral: a Euch, Canon P Marshaft:

9.30 Euch, Darke in E. Awe Marla (Parsons).

Bishop of Knaresborough; 11.30 M. Purcell to B
flar, Make a joyful noise unto the Lord (Mathias),
A Hymn to the Virgin (Britten); 12.30 Euch, Dean
L Weatherhead; 4.30 E; 5.30 Nine Lessons &
Carols

L Weatherhead; 4.30 E; 5.30 Nine Lessons & Carols

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M, Responses (Sanders), Dyson in F, The Angel Gabriel (Pettman), 10.30 S Each, The Angel Gabriel (Pettman), Canon R Les; 3.15 E, TheAngel Gabriel (Pettman), Sanford in B flat, And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), Amen (Byrd),

SALITIBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon I Davies: 10 Each, Advent Rose, Coll Reg (Howells), Tantum engo sacramentum (Durufle), Canon I Davies: 11 50 M, Mrs M Downing; 3 E, Responses (Reading), St Mark's Service (Near).

SIMETHIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC 10 MP; 10.30 S Each, (1662) and Prepartion of Crib, The Provost, 6.30 E, The Vetorrable 5 Lowe.

SOUTHWELL MINNEER: 7.30 M; Blessed Virgin Mary (art Wood), Responses (Plainsong; 8 HC; 9.30 C & Nativity Play; 11 S Euch, Short Service (Batten), A Carol for Mary, The Chancellor; 3.15 E, Antiphon O Rez gendum, Sumsion in A, I look from siar (Piccsolo).

TRUBO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Blessed are the pure in heart (Davies), Messe

(Battern), A Carol for Mary, The Chancellor, 3.15 E. Antiphon O. Rez gendium, Suntsion in A. I look from afar (Piccolo).

TRUBO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9 M: 10 S Euch, Blessed are the pure in heart (Davies), Messe Solentalite (Vierne), The librarian; 6 E. Response (Sanders), Walmisley in D. minor, This have I done for my true love (Hoist, The Curaxe.

WAREHFEID CATHEDRAL: 6 HC. 9.15 C. Angelus at Virginem (14th Century), Canon D Baxter; 11 S Euch, Ireland in C. Jackson in G. One morning very early (Baxter), Canon I Knox: 4 Service of Nine Lesions & Carols.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9.45 S Euch, Jackson in G. The Angel Gabriel (Trad Basque), Rev C Farmar: 11.30 M, Benedicite (William Harris), Stanford in A. Rejolo: the Lord is King (Archer); 3 E. The Second Service/This is the record of John (Gibbons), Preb D Goodman.

WESTMINSTER ASENTY & HC. 10 M, Responses (Neary), Benedicite in B flat (Purcell), Ave Maria (Parsons), Canon D Hott: 11.15 Abbey Euch, Missa Trinigalis Sanciae (Grier), Hymn to the Mother of Good (Tavener), Hymn to the Virgin (Britten), Sr H Markey, 3 E. Watson in E. Tota puichna es Maria (Bruckner), Rev V Stock

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7.3, 9, 12. 5.30. 7 M; 10 MP; 10.30 SM, Missa Ave Maria (Parsons) Toccara, Fugue & Hymne Ave maris stella (Preters); 3.30 v&B, Massine (Bach).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M, 10.30 S Euch, Mass in E flat (Rheinberger), Archdeacon of Basingstoke, 3.30 E. Responses (Lloyd), Dyson in F. A hymn to the Virgin (Britten), Master Tallira Testament (Howells), Rev R Lindley.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Family Euch, Canon D Thomas; 11 S Euch, Missa O Quam Gioriosum (Victoria), A tender Shoot (Goldschmid), Ave Maria, Parsons), Rev Dr M Dorsett 4 Carol Service; 6.30 E Archdeacon of Wottspring.

Dorsett, 4 Carol Service; 6.30 E. Archdeacon of Wortsett.
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch Withelst.
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch Withelst.
Houst Rev Dr. D Hope: 11.30 M, Responses (Reading), Purcell in 8 Baz: 4 E. Stanford in A Vox dicentis (Naylor), Canon Prof E Norman.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC: 11 Choral M, Responses (Formking), This is the record of John (Globons), Rev R H Griffliths; 3.30 EP.
ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP. 8 HC: 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid, Pregetiver: Y Deon; 9.30 Family Service, The Minor Canon: 11.15 Choral Euch, Advent Prose (Plainsong), Sumston in F, Ave werum carpus (Mozard, The Succenior, 4.15 EP: 6 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.
ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL, Bury 8: Edmunds: S HC (BCP: 10 S Euch (ASE), Sanderstead Service (How! Jackson in G; 1 saw a maiden (Petiman), Rev R Davey: 11.30 Choral C (BCP). Mass Propers (Plainsong), Darke in 5. There is no rose (Propplewell). The Processor, 3.30 E. Gloch with Hymns.

essons à Carols.

T PAULS CATHEDRAL, Landour B HC: 8.45 M:
1 S Euch, Missa Salve Internerate Virgo (Tailin),
lagnificat (Moore), Toius tuns (Gorecid), Rev J
[alliburion: 3.15 E. Jackson in G. Responses
Journal, ave Maria (Bruckner), Rev Preh K Toovey;
JO Organ Recital La Nativité du Seigneur

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL Engismore Gardens, London. SW7: 10.30 Divine Litungs. Klevan and traditional polyphony, Diocesan Bishop Met. Anthony.

AIL SAINTS. Margaret Street, WI: 8, 5.15 LM: 10.20 MP. 11 HM. Missa Isle Confessor (Palestrina), Rev W G Wilson; 6 E&B, The Short Service (Gibbons), The Vicar. Service (Gibbons), The Vicar.

ALL ROULE, Langham Place, WI: 9 C; 11 Rev J
Cooke 6.30 Carols by Candlelight, Rev J Stot.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, WI: 11 Mass
III of 1651 (Monteverdi), Ecce concipies (Handi),
Ave Maria (Willacer),
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10
Children's Service; 11 M, Rejoice in the Lord
(Redford), Dr P Sivy; 12.15 HC, 6, Nine Lessons &
Carols.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzeo SI, WI:
11 Sunday School.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,
Covent Garden, Wc2: 11.15 Rev S Hood, 6.30
Service, of Nine Lessons & Caroli.
FARM STREET. WI: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM:
11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC (ASB), Rev J Peters: 11 Christingle Service, Revi R Thrope; 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Rev S Downham. Rev S Downham.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10.

II Mays, Westron Wyrde Mass (Sheopard), Canile tuba (Palestrina), 12:30, 4:30, 7:330 V & B. Prope est Dominus (Regnard).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8:11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

W8:LEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINETER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SWI: 11, 6.30, ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran). Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral Euch, Rev-P D Schmiege.

St. ECZ: [] Choral Euch, Rev-P D Schmiege.

ST ARATHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield,
ECI: 9 HC: [] Choral Euch, Missa Prodenies
virgines (Lobo), The Recor, 6.30 Festival of Mine
Lesons & Carolis.

ST BERDE'S, Fleet Smeet, ECX: [] Choral M &
Euch, Responses (Smith), Benedictie (Surnison in
D), Byrd for four voices, Jesus Christ the apple toe
(Mawby), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E. A Testival
of Nine Lessons & Carolis, Canon J Oates, ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Carol Service

ST CLEMENT DANSS: 11 Carol Service.
ST COLLIMBA'S CHIRCTH OF SCOTLAND, Pure Street, SWI: 11, Rev C I MacLeod; 5 Carol Service.
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Piace: 11 SM. Missa Ave Maris Stella (Victoria), Ave Maria (Busso).
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, WI: 8.30 HC; 11 S Ench. Coronation Mass (Mozard, The Rector; 6 Service of Nine Lessons with Carols.
ST JAMES 1, Sussec Carolina WI: 8 Busch; 10.30 Ench. Missa 'Se la face ay Pale' (Durlay), Vox Clamantis (Esquivel), Rev A Meldrum; 6 Carol Service.

Euch, Missa Se la face ay Pale' (Dulsy). Vox Clasmant's (Esquivel), Rev A Meidrum; 6 Carol Service.
ST JAMES'S. Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 8 Euch. Rev D Reeves, 6.30 Carol Service.
ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 HC, Theme & Variation (Andressen), Rev M Okelio: 6.30 Christmas Carol Service, Rev D Richards.
ST JUHES. Cheiten. SWi: 8 HC: 10.30 MP & HC. Ave Maris (Bruckner), Rev N Roberts; 6.30 Nine Lessons & Carola, Rev I Mambula.
ST MARK'S, Recents Fark Rd, NWI: 8 HC: 9.45 Family C: 11 \$ Euch & Holy Baptism, Missa Servist Ave Maria (Palestina), Rev T Devonshiw Jones, 3.10 Christmas Carols & Lessons.
ST MARK'S, Recents Fark Rd, NWI: 8 HC: 9.45 Family C: 11 \$ Euch & Holy Baptism, Missa Strevist Ave Maria (Palestina), Rev T Devonshiw Jones, 3.10 Christmas Carols & Lessons.
ST MARKARETS, Wesminton, SWI: 11 \$ Euch Missa O quam (Vittoria), This is the record of John (Gibbons), Rev J Goodall; 6 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols.
ST MARKIN-IN-THE-FIRIDS, WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Euch, Rev W Rathflord; 11.30 Visitors to London, Rev C Herbert 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev G Lee, 5 Choral E: 6.30 ES, Rev B Schunemann.
ST MARY Alborts Chultche, Readington WW E, 12.30 HC: 9.30 Euch, FT Gellt; 11.15 Choral M, The Vicar 6.30 E. Carol Service.
ST MARY'S, Bounne Street, SWI: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa sexti toni (Croot), The Bishop of Edmonton; 6 E & B.

ST MARY'S, Bounne Street, SWI: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa Sexti toni (Croot), The Bishop of Edmonton; 6 Carols Service.
ST MARY'S, Bounne Street, SWI: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa Sexti toni (Croot), The Bishop of Edmonton; 6 Carols Service, Rev Lyndon van der Pomp: 6 Carols by Canolelight.
ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, WI: 8 HC. 11 Choral Such, Missa O Magnum; Mysterium

candictight.

ST MARYLEBONS, Marylebone Road, Wt. 8 HC.

II Choral Such, Missa O Magnum Mysterium
Victorial, Magnificat (Short Service - Gibbons),
kev R McLaren; 6.30 Nine Lessone & Carols by
Candictight. Candlefight.

ST PAULS, Wilton Piace, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Buch, Messe Basse (Fauré), Ave Maria (Holst), I sing of a maiden (Hadley), Eer C Courtsuid.

ST PETERS, Eaton Square, SW1: 8, 15 HC; 10 Pamily Such; 11 S Buch, Missa Ls is Malsire Platte (Lassus), Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anom), Fr D B Tillyer; 6,30 Carpl Service.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London; 9 HC, Rev P Abram; 11 Nine Lessons & Carols, Rev P Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL SI, Lames's Paines 4.20 HC; 11.15 MP, Rejoice in the Lord (Purcell), Rev JH R W Stor.

Carols.
GROSVENOR CHAPTI. South Audicy Street. WI;
S.15 HC; II S Buch, Missa Papte Marcelli
[Palestrinal, Ave Maria (Parsons), Ave Maris Stella
(De Grigny), Rev T Dischield.
OUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11, The
Chapel Carol Service.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH. Fleet Street A.30 HC;
II.15 MO. O Emmanuel. Responses (ThalbenBalli: Sumsion in D. Waltiond Disvices in G. This to
the record of John (Ulbbons), The Master.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SWI: 11
M. Rehold the Bridegroom camed (Taills), A
spotless Rose (Howells), Rev J Gough; 12 HC.
ROTAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich,
SE10: I1 S Erich (BCP), Setting (Shaw), Adam Layy
bounden (Ord), Rev C French.

### Marriages

and Miss H.L. Aird

Oueen Elizabeth The Queen Mother attended the marriage held yesterday in The Queen's Chapel, St James's Palace, of Mr Johnnie Seidler, younger son of Mr Francis Seidler, of San Francisco, and of Mrs Daphne Seidler, of Horsted Keynes, Sussex, to Miss Henrietta Aird, younger daughter of Sir Alastair and Lady Aird, of St. James's, London, The Rev William Booth and the Rev David Stonebanks

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Katia Florman. Lucca Fordham, Olivia and Rosie French, Sabrina Morse, Lara Simpkin, Conrad Nel. Hugo French and Oliver Mould Mr Philip Mould was best man.

A reception was held at St James's Palace and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr D.J. Barbour and Miss L.S.K. Stanley The marriage took place yesterday at St Matthew's, West Kensington, of Mr David Barbour, eldest son of

of Mr David Barbour, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Clive Barbour, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, to Miss Laura Stanley, younger daughter of the Hon Richard and Mrs Stanley, of Fulham, London. The Rev Huw Chiplin officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Clementine Stanley, Isabella Stanley, Arabella Stanley, Sabrina Stanley, Susannah Stanley, Rose Jebb, Edwin Jebb, Harry Jebb, Theo Jebb, Cameron Doig, Thomas Dryden and Hugh Stanley, Mr Jeremy Skeet was best man.

A reception was held at The Orangery, Holland Park, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr P.C. Stewart md Miss KAE Shro The marriage took place on Thursday, December 19, at Chelsea Old Town Hall, between Mr Paul Stewart and Miss Karen Shuman.

#### Forthcoming: marriages

Mr G.W. Gasiorowski and Miss J. Barron The engagement is announced between Gregory, son of Mr and Mrs Waclaw Gasiorowski, of Ac-ton, London, and loanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Weston, of Woodbridge, Suffolk. Mr J.H. Goate

and Ms H.E. O'Nians The engagement is announced between John Goate, of Grosvenor Hill. London WI. and Helen. daughter of Mr and Mrs Hai O'Nians, of London. Mr P.T. Kelly

and Mrs H.J. Hyman The engagement is announced between Patrick Kelly, of Aston Rise, Henley on Thames, and Hilary Hyman, nee Scott, of Earlscliffe Court, Bowdon, Cheshire.

Dr S. Langton Hewer and Miss C. Dunning

and Miss C. Daining
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Professor and Mrs Richard Langton Hewer, of Leigh Woods, Bristot, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Dunning, of Boscombe Manor, Bournerrouth. Mr M.C. Lubienski and Miss H.M. Lisowska

and Miss H.M. Lisowska
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Kazimierz Lubienski, of Osterley, Middlesex, and Hania, daughter of the late Mr Jezzy Lisowska and of Mrs Zofia Lisowska, of Wimbledon.

Mr J. Picton nei Miss J. Prentice
The engagement is announced
between Jon, son of Mr Peter
Picton, of Stratford on Avon and

Mrs Gill Brown, of Crockerton, Wilstire, and Jessica, youngest daughter of Mr John Prentice, of Lickfold, West Sussex and Mrs Delphine Star, of Lodsworth, West Mr S.A. Sometwille

Mr S.A. Somewille and Miss M. Long The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs Stuart Somerville, of Coggeshall, Essex, and Maria, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Long, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

#### University news

Orderd Magdalen College The following elections have

been made To an Honorary Fellowship from November 13, 1996: Mr Julian Barnes

To Waynflete Fellowship from November 13, 1996: Mr Antony Hichens

To Fellowship by Exam-Mr M.A. Isard, of Wolfson College, Oxford, to a Fellowship by Examination in Engi-

neering for three years from January I, 1997. Mr G.R. Cariyle, of St Hugh's

October 1, 1997.

To a Supernumerary Non-Stipendiary Fellowship: Dr P. Raynes, FRS, from January 1, 1997, until the earlier of September 30, 1999, or his ceasing to be a Visiting Professor in the Department of Engineering Science.

Manchester Metropolitan Mrs Alexandra Burslem to be Vice-Chancellor. Manchester Metropolitan University from September 1, 1997, in succession to Sir Kenneth Green who is retiring. Mrs Burslem is currently the university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Academic

ship by Examination in Mathematics for three years from the facing page

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

Put me to the proof, says the Lond of Dem, and so if I so not open windows in the sky and pour a blessing on you as long as there is seed him-schi 3: 10

BIRTHS

ATMENTON - On December 19th, to Elaine and Dennis, daughter, Sophia Alice. to Fions (pée Shaw) and CRABS - Wendy and Ian are delighted to announce the series of their flow child, a daughter, Georgian Lydin on December 17th.

UKARD - (a December 15th, to Lucy (née Kirkpatrick) and Edward, a daughter, Colla Mary, a sister for Olive.

LEVENTHORPE - On 18th December in Hong Kong, to Sarah (née Pakenham Walsh) and Tom, a son, Arthur Richard Digby, a brother for Henry. MOVD - Ch 4th December, in David and Alison (née Bassett), a daughter, Alexa Lity, a sister for Felix.

LUCIE-SMITH - On 19th December 1996, to Tina (née Metham) and Euan, a daughter, Sasha Cara, a state for less Beat. in The Portland Hospital, to jane and lan, a beautiful son, Thomas George.

to Felicined, a son, Nathaniel Alexander.

TATE - On December 19th, to Bosalind (née Coward) and Edward, a daughter, Miranda Nahros. DEATHS

19th December, and 83, of Sasingstoke and Lymington. Wills of the heat Back and to Jeanniles, Michael, Hegh and Bruce. Following a life of service to others will be sadly missed by many. Forest december of Howers or foundations to Particusons Disease or Bible Society of Dismond Puneral Diseases. (C) 1590)

be missed valenties (Bed December 18th 1996. Finnel Bevels to be bed a Warhington Church, near Susworth, 11 am, Monday December 30th Val was known by so many and greatly missed by those of or who level be.

Enderby peacefully on Friday 20th December. Loved husband of Fam. No letter plans. Frings Larly

**CHRISTMAS PERIOD** Deadlines & Opening Times Birth, Marriage & Death Notices. For notices to appear on Tuesday December 24th the deadline is Monday December 23rd at 12 noon. For notices to appear on Thursday December 26th and Friday December 27th the deadline is Tuesday December

24th at 12 noon. Wednesday December 25th Office Closed. Thursday December 26th Office Closed. Normal hours Friday December 27th. = 0171 680 6880

BEBUP - Anthony, on 19th Hamble 1996 at Carwell Hospital London, belowed husband of Helem, adored father of James and Helem, loving brother of Jim. Funeral private. Family flowers only, by request. Donations, if desired, to this Colleg Basphul Liver Unit A memorial service will be arranged.

THE SENTIMES

BLACK - Barry. Fescatully on December 18th aged 89. December 18th aged 89. December 18th aged 89. December 18th aged 89. December 18th aged 18th a

Westminster.

COX - On 13th December pencefully, Shella aged 61 years of Ashtead Much loved wife of Barry and much of Twodry ally sel justin. Funeral Service has taken place. If desired immitions is Boyal Mandan Hospital (Smithers Ward Fund) Belmont, Satton,

HEVEY - Len. Husband of Binds, britar of Piess and The Died in hopeless 19th December 1975, Fasaral Friday 27th December 1996. Two (19751) 607502.

The (Division of State 18th at Fembury Hoapital, Tunkridge Wells, Frank and J. William of Son Van den Bergh, busband of Avril, father of the late Jackie heart of the late Jackie and Lucinda Heart of the Jackie Crematerists on Thursday 2nd January at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, details from E.R. Homes a Lea Mr. (01092) 522462.

LEF - Gladys "Gypsy" died

17th Denmber, pencetulty,
1904 S2. She kaves behind
her only daughter Cheric

Rathafie Lunghi After the
Reversed to Confirm her
Reversed to Confirm her
Reveryone who have her
Reversed to Confirm her
Reversed there will be
Rathafie Lunghi Haradan
Rathafie Lunghi After the
Rathafie Lunghi After
Rathafie Lunghi
Rathafi

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE

ARGENT - T.D.R. 21st December 1993. Loving nemocras of Nick, never to be forgotten. HUMBER - Decak, descript December is our thoughts. Simon, Jeremy, Jame and all the family.

. . . . . .

PERSONAL COLUMN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Lilley (née Wheeler)
18/5/1918 to 28/1/1976.
Peggy Lilley, wife of
Gooffrey Lilley, wife of
Gooffrey Lilley O.B.E.,
Imeritus Frofessor of
Aeronauties and
Astronauties at The
University of Southempeon
died pescafully in her sleep
on Thundry 28th November
1996, Peggy Wheeler was
born on 28th May 1918 to
Lity and Lieutenant L.F.
Wheeler of the 22th London
Legiment. Peggy and CONDON-CURRENCE: - jame and Latte wish to thank seighbours and friends for their kind messages of sympathy is the unders lare of their mother, Earbarz, who died at her home in Oxford OZ2 6RB on December 9th 1996.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND

Anniversaries

Charch, Septiment, Propy was an anniverse of the reference of the more suppliciting that on the 38th Martin's Charch, Septiment, whilst resting the charch in the few Frences, chiese choosed have not an anniverse stockes as abova? It has which as an anniverse stockes as abova? It has which as an anniverse and the country of the same of the septiment of

ANNOUNCEMENTS DO YOU, BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER



FOR SALE Arms Park to include new str dium (50 years), best journies Tak 01446 730730

GENUINE BIRTHDAY NEWSPAPERS From largest actions served from 1642-1996 Seeden Horseppers S Seas 1915. Ready for para 520 Peday Way, ST Condon CR04RE 0181 688 6323 or call FREE 0500 520 000

PENEMBER ( LA.? Probably not bet PRE-DECIMAL CURRENCY be become a marity and as new heghly collectable. We have a limited member of pro-1967 sets at affordable prices. Beillimet maniter of pro-1967 sets at affordable prices. Beillimet maniputabled coins from the Royal Mint in attractive custes, they are the ideal gift whose value will appetitize.

appention:
"Lest Le q" nebe: - 512.
Reveal Cruwn net: - 56.
Reveal bitten First Decimal Set -Other brilliant unchrollmed com for saje.
Please ving \$1394 277223 or
write. Priors include postage
for Lave. PO fire 61.
Felixatuve, IP11 8PL.

A RACEHORSE FOR **CHRISTMAS** For £750 you can give someone a 's share in a racehorse from January to June. No extras and all the fun of visiting the yard as w as going racing.
For details phone: 01453-885487

GIFTS

SKID PAN COURSES A GIFT VOUCHER WITH A DIFFERENCE! SERIOUS FUN, PROFESSIONAL PRITEICENON, BARRÓYES SKRLLSA, RÉACTIÓ CARS ERPUED. N. 4 ; BAY COLDESS AVALANLE IN THE CENTRAL SOUTH AT THRUSTON RACE CURCULT & MINLANDS IN LECEPTULD

CASTLE COMBE SKID PAN Laters how to control a car in wet or icy conditions
We provide the east and instruction. Half day
course is great fan and costs \$49.50
GIFT VOUCHERS FOR THE COUNTSE MAKE
EXCELLENT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS Combi Sidd Fert, Coule Combi Chaid, Chips Wilghire SN14 7EX

Tel: (01249) 782101

and the second of the second o

CALL DRIVING MANAGEMENT LTD 96264 771874

1996 in presentation folder £18.00 in: php. Newment year videos attail. Tel/Pax 61534-412844 9pm 7 days.

DX 9 CARTIES wanted, High cosh prices paid, 0171 495 8992 of visit 31 Feet Lans WL TICKETS FOR SALE Badana, Picelline, T. Turner Regby all opent 0171 480 6183

SERVICES

WANTED

FOR SALE TK BOTTDAAS GRANNY in the Commercial S bod, 2 bath cottage, now avail for letting. Presty remai village with pub. Tel; 01-451 810803.

MUSICAL. INSTRUMENTS SANY SEARC Plane, Rembell & Row, Makessey, vgs. 62,500 one, 7st 01797 346040. FOR SALE

LEGAL, PUBLIC, **COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY** 

PLEASE TELEPRONE 0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

TRUSTEE ACTS

Director.

SITUATIONS VACANT

UTOR, Mele. Brand, Jan-Pet Some mostic, burnia, Min. 'A level. T/P: 01874 690396

RUSTEE ACTS

TRUSTEE ACTS

TRUSTEE ACTS

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given procused to AZY of the TRUSTEE ACT.

NOTICE is hereby given procused to AZY of the TRUSTEE ACT.

NOTICE is hereby given procused to AZY of the TRUSTEE ACT.

NOTICE is hereby given procused to AZY of the TRUSTEE ACT.

NOTICE is hereby given procused to AZY of the TRUSTEE ACT.

NOTICE is hereby given procused to AZY of the TRUSTEE ACT.

NOTICE ACT of the TRUSTEE ACT.

NOTICE ACT OF AZY OF THE AZY of the Concessed persons when the chart here are not to below to heave the chart of the section of the decision to the decision of the decision to the decision of the decision of

SCHIEX DESERVATERAL
LIBERTED

NOTHER SI HERBEY GIVEN proment to Section 96 of the Employwanty Act 1986 that a Meeting of
Coediness of the above number
Company will be held a
HE Francisco Court, London SCAA
dill' on 23 December 1996 at
11.15am for the purposes isontioned in Sections 97 to 1001 or
the maid Act.
A list of the immus and addresses
of the Company's Crydiness may
be improched free of charge
Between 18.00cm and addresses
of the Company's Crydiness may
be improched free of the Section
Between 18.00cm and Schops at
Finishers Court, London ECAA
dill' on the rever business days
proveding the tone of the
Market Pitter of the Court
Section Court of the Section
Counting of The Section

NOTICES

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received

by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

18/521 (2)

THE RECORD BOX 1

13

130

 $\log \epsilon$ 

172

LEGAL NOTICES

#### **OBITUARIES**

incomia,

10 a la

#### Carl Sagan, astronomer and author, died of myelodysplasia yesterday aged 62. He was born in New York City on

November 9, 1934.

The American physicist and astronomer Carl Sagan was bestknown as a populariser of science who made his name through a series of books and television pro-grammes. He was a gifted communicator; although not always resisting the temptation to preach. In later years, a Pulitzer Prize behind him, his books diminished in real content as they grew in literary pretension. But his status as the leading media scientist in the United States was never in doubt, backed as it was by a compelling presence, good looks, and an enviable talent to explain.

Sagan was glad to have been born in the 20th century, the first moment in human history when man had the ability to leave the Earth and explore space. His lasting memorial is a plaque that will be carried through interstellar space for all eternity by the Pioneer space probe Depicting a human body, some equations; and a map of the universe, the plaque was designed to tell any intelligence clever enough to decipher it where the Earth was, who inhabited it, and how advanced was their knowledge of the natural world.

'Astronomer, educator and

author" was how Sagan described himself, and he was all three. His interests were wide, encompassing the origins of human intelligence, the possibilities of interstellar travel, the evolution of mankind and the consequences of nuclear war. He won many awards, even though his populist approach may not have endeared him to some of his scientific peers. The list of his awards alone, both national and international, occupied 30 lines in the current edition of Who's Who in America.

The son of a Russian immigrant, a tailor who went on to become a factory manager in New York City, Carl Edward Sagan grew up in New Jersey. His fascination for astronomy began at an early age, despite the fact that once, on asking for a book on the stars at his local library, he was given a volume on Clark Gable. Although his parents knew little about science, they nurtured his enthusiasm and at school he proved an outstanding pupil. He won a series of scholarships to Chicago University from where he graduated with a BA degree in 1954 and a BSc degree in physics a year later.

and the second second

the same of the

- 12 m

1111

With the help of a grant from the National Science Foundation, he stayed on at-Chicago as a pre-doctoral Fellow in Physics and decided to concentrate on astronomy. In

CARL SAGAN



1956, when he was only 22, he created his first public furore by announcing to the annual eting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that he had disproved the then current theory that etation existed on the surface of Mars.

By 1960 Sagan's thesis, Physical Studies of Planets, had earned him a doctorate in astronomy and astrophysics and he moved to the University of California at Berkeley, from where he promptly pub-lished an article in Science proposing a scheme for making the planet Venus habitable uman beings. After making a theoretical analysis of the planer's atmosphere and surface temperature -- later confirmed as accurate by the Soviet space probe - Sagan suggested seeding the upper atmosphere of Venus with a species of algae which would, over time, absorb carbon dioxide and water vapour and replace them with oxygen.

This scheme was somewhat at variance with his concern, expressed a year previously, that microbes from Earth, carried into space by rockets and capsules, might contaminate the surfaces of the moon and the planets. Such contami-

nation, Sagan claimed, might destroy valuable scientific evidence about the development of the solar system and the origins of life on Earth. His pleas were taken seriously by both the United States and Soviet Governments, which began to take steps to sterilise their space vehicles before the

In 1962 Sagan took time off

launch.

from his study of astronomy, taking a post instead as Assistant Professor of Genetics at Stanford University School of Medicine, where he worked with Joshua Lederberg, win-ner of the 1958 Nobel Prize. There he set out to prove the idea that life on Earth had originated from simple inorganic compounds indigenous to our planet, such as ammonia, methane and water. In laboratory experiments he produced amino acids — the building blocks of proteins by exposing such materials to ultraviolet light and shock waves. It was thunder, he concluded, that produced most of the molecules responsible for the origin of life on Earth some 4 billion years ago.

Sagan moved to Harvard in 1963 to become Assistant Professor of Astronomy until 1968, when he found his academic

home as Professor of Astronomy and Space Science at Cornell University. He was becoming increasingly involved in the practical aspects of space exploration, and was hired by Nasa to lecture the flight crews of the Apollo

missions to the moon. Later he

was responsible for the inter-

stellar messages carried by Pioneer and Voyager space-craft and was a member of the teams controlling the interplanetary explorations of the unmanned Mariner. Viking and Galileo space probes. The possible existence of extraterrestrial intelligence was a constant facscination to Sagan, and in 1971 he was chairman of the US delegation to the joint conference of the Soviet and American Academies of Science, called to study the possibility of communicating with beings from outer space. It was this same obsession that led him to dabble with the phenomenon of Unidentifed Flying Objects.

Although he remained scep-tical about UFOs, rating them along with reincarnation, alcherny, telepathy and Santa Claus as "ideas which are charming if true," Sagan re-

editing a scientific debate on

the subject in 1972.

fused to join those who rejected outright the notion of visitors from space. "Scientists are particularly bound to keep open minds," he wrote. " This is the lifeblood of science...I believe the search for extraterrestrial intelligence to be an exceedingly important one both for science and society. It is difficult to think of a more important scientific question. But I do not believe that the most efficient method of examining this topic is via the UFO problem. The best hope for such investigations is Nasa's unmanned planetary programme and attempts at inter-

stellar radio communication." Though politically independent, Sagan showed no hesitation in leaping to the support of causes, invariably liberal in which he believed. In the light of history, his judgment was not always sound. In 1983 he led a group of scientists warning against the probability of a nuclear winter following any major nuclear exchange which could wipe out all life on Earth through the blotting out of sunlight. The thesis gained worldwide currency, provid-ing fine ammunition for the Kremlin at the height of the final phase of the Cold War. though subsequent analysis showed that it was flawed. In 1986 he inveighed against the Strategic Defence Initiative — President Reagan's "Star Wars" — in a widely publicised debate with Gener-

al James Abrahamson, director of the US Government's Strategic Defence Initiative. His judgment was at least consistent: later the same year he was among the 139 demonstrators arrested at the site of an underground nuclear test in Nevada. He was also active in the civil liberties movement. and in education for the disadvantaged.

Amid all this activity, while also carrying out active research at Cornell and appearing as a guest lecturer at universities around the world, Sagan still found time to write and publish a plethora of books. Most of his 17 works beginning in 1961 with Atmospheres of Mars and Venus and ending in 1994 with Pale Blue Dot dealt with one aspect or other of astronomy and space exploration, but he also explored the origins of life in Shadows of Forgotten An-cestors in 1992 and the development of the human mind in The Dragons of Eden (1977). His one novel Contact (1985) was based on the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. "My fondest hope," Sagan wrote, "is that it will be made obsolete by the pace of real scientific discovery." He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for literature in 1978 for The Dragons of Eden: Speculations on the Evolution of Human Intelligence.

Married three times, Carl Sagan is survived by his third wife, Anne, and by three sons and two daughters.

### VINCAS BALICKAS

Vincas Balickas, former Lithuanian Ambassador in London, died on December 19 aged 92. He was born on May II, 1904

VINCAS BALICKAS, the last surviving diplomat appointed by the independent prewar government of Lithuania, kept the flag of Baltic defiance bravely flying through more than 50 dark years of Soviet occupation.

Refusing to accept Stalin's incorporation of his small state into the USSR, the man who first arrived in Britain in 1938 lived to see the fulfilment of what must have seemed a futile dream. With the recreation of an independent Lithuania after the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, his obstinate patriotism was triumphantly recognised when he was reappointed at the age of 86 to represent his country this time as its Ambassador.

Throughout the Second World War and the Cold War that followed, it was his presence in London as much as anything that stiffened Britain's resolve never formally to recognise the incorporation of the three Baltic states into the Soviet Union. A proud, honourable patriot, Balickas also came to be the personification of Lithuania's independent spirit to the many exiles and refugees who had fled from Stalinist oppression.

Born in Virbalis, a small town in southwestern Lithuania, Vincas Balickas attended the Russian-language primary school there (Lithuania was part of the Russian empire then), learning to read and write Lithuanian at home. He was by all accounts a studious child and graduated with top marks from the Lithuanian gymnasium in the nearby town of Vilkaviskis.

In 1926 he was sent to study commerce, considered to be of first importance in the regeneration of a newly independent Lithuania, in Vienna. After completing his studies



there, he worked in the information and statistics department of the Bank of Lithuania, 1929-31. His work anracted the artention of the Foreign Ministry and he was invited to head the economics and commercial section of ELTA, the official Lithuanian news agency, of which he served as director for a year. In 1935 he was appointed deputy director of the economics department of the Foreign Ministry.

He came to London in 1938, one year before the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact which was to seal the fate of the Baltic states for the next five decades, to work as commercial counselfor at the Lithuanian Legation. His knowledge and experience of commerce was to prove instrumental in deepening the increasingly important trading links between Lithuania and Britain. The post of commercial

counsellor at the Lithuanian Legation in London was considered to be particularly important. Balickas was certainly to prove to be up to the job. Unfortunately, the occupation of Lithuania first by the Soviets in 1940, then by Nazi Germany the following year, and again by the Soviets in 1944, meant that Lithuania was to lose its independence and cease to be a trading country in its own right for the next five decades.

1940 to 1967 he worked in the capacity of counsellor under Bronius Balutis, the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Great Britain and The Netherlands. In the immediare postwar years the legation was kept busy with looking after the welfare of the newly arrived political refugees coming mainly from Displaced Persons camps in Germany. They were able to issue passports which continued to be recognised by many countries throught the world. After Balutis's death in 1967, he became Charge d'Affaires, which position he was to hold until his appointment as Ambassador of the new Lithuanian Government under Pres-

ident Landsbergis. In spite of lucrative reaching posts offered to him in the United States, Balickas felt it his duty to stay on in his post as the only representative of his country in Britain. Nor did old age ever dim his dedication. On his retirement as Ambassador in 1993 — after 55 years of service to Lithuania in Britain - his wealth of experience continued to be drawn upon in his capacity as honorary counsellor.

Balickas is survived by his wife Stefanija whom he married in 1932 and by a daughter and son. Another daughter

the Far East, beginning a

collaboration that was to last

until the mid-1950s. After the

war, he accompanied Beatrice

Lillie in cabaret at the re-

Café de Paris and collaborated

with Coward on the shows he

Hackforth always insisted

that he and Coward had

gave at the same venue.

#### NORMAN HACKFORTH

Norman Hackforth broadcaster, died on December 14 aged 87. He was born on December

20, 1908. FOR almost thirty years Norman Hackforth was one of the more unlikely celebrities in British broadcasting. As the "mystery voice" on the popular radio game show Twenty Questions, he revealed to listeners the names of the objects whose identity the resident panel then had to guess. The programme made a popular catchphrase of the words "And the next object is . . .... uttered by Hackforth with vivid theatricality in a voice that blended the surreptitious and the trustworthy, the sinister and the confiding, the mystic and the humane" (or so Harold Nicolson said). After 19 years of introducing the objects, he himself was introduced on to the panel, replacing Richard Dimbleby when he became ill in 1965 and going on to serve

Hackforth enjoyed Twenty Questions and the curious fame it brought him, and he used his catchphrase as the title for the autobiography he published in 1975. But he would probably have preferred to be remembered for his work as a musician, in which capacity he provided piano accompaniment for some of the leading popular performers of the day, and played an important — if largely unrecognised - part in Noël Coward's postwar caba-ret success. He also served as the first music director of

for almost a decade.

Anglia Television. Norman Hackforth was born in India, the son of a railway engineer. Sent to England at the age of six, he was brought up by four aunts and did not see his parents again until he was 12. Education at Aldenham School was luklowed by musical studies, then Josephine Baker. He went on by a job in a Soho nightclub, to accompany Noël Coward on tours to South Africa and playing the plano for £7 a week.

in the years between the wars, Hackforth worked in clubs and in the music halls. appearing with the Whispering Lunatics at the London opening of the bombed-out Pavilion, and accompanying Fanny Ward (the suggestively clad "Flapper Granny") as she titillated the patrons of the Willesden Empire. He also enjoyed some success as a

---

songwriter, his Evry Little

Thing I Do providing a hit for

Jack Smith, the "Whispering

Baritone". Film work - on

two shorts (A Song or Two and Musical Moments, both 1920)

and a full-length feature

(Eight Cylinder Love, 1934) -

followed his participation in

John Logie Baird's early tele-

vision experiments: and his

voice was put to commercial use in advertisements for

Allison's bread and Woodbine

War broke out Hackforth tried

to volunteer for the RAF, but

was rejected on medical

grounds. Instead he joined

Ensa, entertaining the troops

in France before Dunkirk and

performing in Lehanon with

When the Second World

worked together "very amiably"; but "the Master" seemed rejuctant to acknowledge his debt to his musical collaborator, and remarks he made about him in his diaries. subsequently published, were sometimes uncomplimentary. Hackforth's 1947 revue, Between Ourselves, was described by Coward as "awful, a couple of good ideas bungled and a cast of repellent unattractiveness".

It was after the failure of that revue that Hackforth was recruited for Twenty Ouestions by the producer Cleland Finn, whom he had met in South Africa with Coward. The programme was to become a hugely popular British institution, and by the time Hackforth was dropped from it in 1975, some 90,000 mysterious objects had been puzzled over by the panel, with well over a million questions ("Animal, vegetable or mineral?") being asked in the quest to

identify them all. Hackforth did not allow the bitterness he felt at being replaced (by Brian Johnston) after almost thirty years on Twenty Questions to affect the tone of the cheerful volume of memoirs he published after he left the programme; nor was it evident in the biography he wrote of Kenneth Horne, a former chairman of the panel. in 1976.

His wife Pamela, whom he married in 1949, died last year.

#### THE RIGHT REV GERALD MOVERLEY

The Right Rev Gerald Moverley, Roman Catholic Bishop of Hallam, 1980-96, died on December 15 aged 74. He was born on April 9, 1922.

A FAITHFUL and unassuming pastoral bishop, Gerald Moverley made national news only once. This happened in 1976 when, as auxiliary bishop of Leeds, he refused to allow Mass to be said in the Wakefield prison cell of the IRA hunger-striker. Frank Stagg. Stagg, who died ten days

later, was by then too weak to make his way to the prison chapel and the bishop was. therefore, depriving him of the sacrament. But Moverley did so deliberately, taking the view that the prisoner was responsible for his own condition and, anyway, that it was morally wrong to seek to bring pressure to bear on the authorities by such methods.

It says something for the generally robust line adopted by the Vatican towards the Provisional IRA that only four years later Moverley should have been appointed to a diocese of his own - the newly created one of Hallam, based on Sheffield and covering south Yorkshire, parts of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. He remained the Roman Catholic Bishop of Hallam until illness forced his retirement earlier this year, the Pope accepting his resignation

only last July.
Gerald Moverley was a Yorkshireman by birth, being born in Bradford, the eldest of five children. He was educated at various local Catholic schools, ending up at St Bede's Grammar School, Bradford, whence he went to test his vocation and train for the priesthood at Ushaw College, Durham. He was ordained in 1946 and seems to have been



instantly spotted as a high flyer, being recruited at once as private secretary to the Bishop of Leeds, Henry John Poskitt, by whom he had been ordained.

There then followed three years at the Angelicum University in Rome, where he took

a doctorate in Canon Law. This enabled him to become Chancellor (or chief legal official) of the Leeds diocese in 1957, even though at the time he had never run a parish. His first post as a parish priest was at St Brigid's, Churwell, to which he was appointed in 1960, and it also proved to be his last. His talents had long been recognised and it came as no surprise when he was named auxiliary bishop of Leeds in 1968. He spent 12 years in Leeds

as assistant to Bishop Gordon Wheeler (like his more celebrated contemporary, Bishop Christopher Butler, a Catholic convert from Anglicanism) and during that time won himself a respected place in the life of the city. He was not, however, fully stretched and his appointment to his own diocese did not come before time. Hallam certainly presented him with a challenge

strike of 1984-85 and the 1989 Hillsborough football tragedy. But he soon established him-self in the life of what had come to feel almost an embattled community and his quiet. reflective approach won him many friends (few of whom had much idea of the intellectual distinction on which it was based). Outside his diocese he found time to be vice-president of the Church's Commission on Jus-

and he lived through some

tough times there - including

the bitterness of the miners

tice and Peace and president of the Canon Law Society, as well as serving as consultant for the revision of The Code of Canon Law in 1983. Yet perhaps the outside appointment that gave him greatest pleasure was his comparatively humble membership of the Council of Sheffield University, on which he served from 1985 until his death.

#### "MADAME POMPADOUR." MISS EVELYN LAYE'S SUCCESS.

Musical cornedy seems temporarily to have reverted from the hysterical to the historical. A little while ago we had a musical piece woven around the life and loves of the Empress Catherine. At Daly's Theatre last night we had another, dealing with the career of Mme. Pompadour. The former dealt with its heroine in so kindly a way that it might well have been called The Whitewashing of Catherine, but there was no whitewashing

last night. We were shown a Primpadour who was a distinctly naughty young lady, but Miss Evelyn Laye, who played the part, while revelling in its naughtiness managed to suggest not only the charm which is essential to the success of the perfect "vampire." but the deverness which is just as essential for her nal entrication from the deep waters imo which her proclivities led her. Eventually she had to reveal a little sentiment of a domestic kind, which struck the first jarring note in the portrayal of the character. We are up a potential lover just because he was her sister's husband, and this is not be sure that Pomnadour would never have given r's busband, and this is what she was

made to do last night. Miss Laye certainly made the most of a

#### ON THIS DAY

## **December 21, 1923**

Evelon Lave, who died this year at the age of 95, was on the London stage by the time she was to and for many years was the darling of theatrepoers appearing in such musical shows as The Shop Cirl, Lilac Time and The New Moon.

great chance. Her singing of a king and occasionally difficult part was always ad-mirable, and her acting, with the exception of a rather irritating giggle, was consistently good. She did really suggest the beautiful, brilliant, and unscrupulous favourite who made such use of her talents, and it was an unexpected pleasure to have for the leading character in a musical piece one which, even after being "put to music", did not seem to lose many of its human qualities. Mudame Pompadour is certainly put to many trials. for, when travelling incognito (for no very good purpose, it is to be wagered), she first

hears the frank opinion of the proletariat about her character, and then falls in love with an amorous young gentleman whom she errols in her bodyguard of soldiers, in order that he may always he near her. This is the man whom she afterwards renounces because he is her sister's husband, and before he is renounced he causes a great deal of trouble in the breast of King Louis and others at court. Mr. Derek Oldham makes a manly and sympathetic figure of the lover. He, too, has

many songs to sing, and sings them excellently. Mr. Bertram Wallis as the King is a thought too dignified for that vacillating monarch, but vacillates convincingly enough, in spite of that. Mr Huntley Wright manages to extract a great deal of humour out of the part of a kind of village "Gringoire", who insults Pom-padour only to benefit by her favours, and Mr. Leonard Mackay is sufficiently "heavy" as one of those foolish chiels of police who make the lot of the hero on the stage such a pleasing one, Mr. Leo Fall's music is always tuneful and occasionally more than that, and the "book" is well rendered into English by Mr. Frederick Lonsdole and Mr. Harry

Graham. The piece had an enthusiastic reception, and the audience obtained its way and prevailed on Miss Laye to say a few words.

#### Weekend anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Mathurin Régnier, poet, Chartres, France, 1573; Jean Racine, dramatist, La Ferté-Milon, 1639; Leopold von Ranke, historian, Wiehe. Germany, 1795; Robert missionary, Moffat. Ormiston, East Lothian, 1795; Sir Joseph Whitworth, Bt. mechanical engineer. Stock-port, 1903; Benjamin Disraeli, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, Prime Minister 1868 and 1874-80, London, 1804; Archibald Campbell Tait, Archbishop of Canterbury 1869-82. Edinburgh, 1811; Joseph Stalin, Soviet leader. Gori, Georgia, 1879; Dame Rebecca West,

1892 DEATHS: Giovanni Boccaccio, writer, Certaldo, Italy. 1375; Catherine of Braganza. Queen consort of Charles II, 1988.

novelist and critic, London,

son, physician, London, 1924; F. Scott Fitzgerald, novelist. Hollywood, 1940; George Patton, American general of the Second World War, Heidelberg, Germany, 1945; Gladys Ripley, contralto, Chichester. 1955; Lewis Terman, psychologist, Palo Alto, California, 1956; Eric Coates, composer, London, 1957; Sir John (Jack) Hobbs, cricketer, Hove, 1963. The Pilgrim Fathers landed at

Lisbon, 1705; James Parkin-

Plymouth, Massachusetts, Robert Liston used an anaesthetic (ether) for the first time in a British operation, University College Hospital, London,

A Pan American jumbo jet blew up and crashed on the Scottish border town of Lockerbie killing 270 people, Beatrix Potter, children's writ-

TOMORROW BIRTHS: Karl Abel, compos-

er, Cothen, Germany, 1725; John Crome, landscape painter, Norwich, 1768; Jean Henri Fabre, naturalist, St-Léons, France, 1823; Giacomo Puccini, composer, Lucca, Italy, 1858: Edwin Arlington Robinson, poet, Head Tide, Maine, 1869; Edgar Varese, composer, Paris, 1883.

DEATHS: Duc de Sully, soldier and statesman, Villebon, France, 1641; William Hyde Wollaston, physician, London, 1828; George Eliot, novelist, London, 1880; Dwight Moody, evangelist, Northfield, Massachusetts, 1899; Baron Richard von Krafft-Ebing, neuro-psychiatrist, Graz, 1902; Nathanael West, novelist, El Cento, California, 1940;

et, Sawrey, Lancashire, 1943;

Harry Langdon, silent film star, California, 1944. Alfred Dreyfus, a French army officer, was imprisoned on Devil's Island on a charge

of espionage, later proved false, 1894. Willhelm Rontgen made the first radiograph or x-ray of his

wife's hand, 1895. The 70mph speed limit was introduced in Britain, 1965.

Bessie Compton,

Latest wills

cashire, left estate valued at £822,714 net. total/14 net.

she left 15,000 to Church of Emmanuel Holtombe: \$500 each to Purish of Emmanuel Holtombe: 10 be speni in connection with Canon lewis Hall, British Red Crass. ESPCA: (250 to North West Elding Association for the Handicapped: 1200 to Manchester and District Home for Lost Dogs.

Haslingden, Rossendale, Lan-

NATURE NOTIES

#### NEWS

#### Bail bid in 'road rage' murder case

■ A judge will be asked on Monday to free Tracie Andrews who is charged with the murder of her fiance. Magistrates were told that she stabbed Lee Harvey 37 times and then lied that he had been the victim of a "road rage" attack.

Details of the case emerged after her solicitor took the unusual step of asking for reporting restrictions to be lifted....... Page 1

#### Probation for woman guilty of infanticide

Emma Gifford, the daughter of a retired chief executive of the Rank Organisation who killed her newborn son after giving birth alone and in secret in her Kensington flat was put on probation yesterday after pleading guilty to infanticide. She pleaded not guilty to trying to conceal the birth ....... Pages 1, 5

#### Freeman tipped

Roger Freeman, the minister charged with sorting out the beef crisis, is the leading contender to 

#### James and Alice top James has usurped Thomas, Alice is top while Charlotte's star has

fallen in this year's Times survey of the most popular names for .... Page I Fish quota retained

### Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minis-

ter, has claimed victory in a deal in Brussels that will keep Britain's fish quotes at 1996 levels... Page 2

#### High-heel case falls A mother jailed for attacking her husband's mistress with a stiletto heeled shoe has been freed Page 3

Miracle baby At the age of 15 months, Beth Nee is a picture of health and happiness. Yet it is something of a mir-

No faith in schools Leading Roman Catholic independent schools are calling for greater

Guerrillas holding over 400 hostages in Peru have told the Government they will start killing their captives unless their demands are met today......Page 12

#### Yeltsin returns

President Yeltsin says he will be back at his office in the Kremlin on Monday morning and plans a busy schedule to make up for his six-month absence due to iliacle that she is alive...... Page 4

#### Santa plea lost in the post for 85 years

A letter that Santa Claus never received has fluttered down the chimney of a cottage 85 years after it was "posted" there by nine-year-old Mabel Higgs. On December 8, 1911, she wrote asking Santa to "remember the very poor children in the slums" and for a story book and a box of chocolates ..

#### Milkman questioned

A milkman given three life sentences for knife attacks on two women is to be questioned by detectives about the murder of a teenage schoolgirl ....

support from parents and bishops as increasing numbers of wealthy Catholics send their children to other public schools...... Page 9 Hostage deadline

> - OPINION -No Elgin, no Marbles: The

Parthenon was the symbol of one very unpopular Greek city. The disputed works were one small part of the Parth-

### LETTERS

0134 407 504

0336 411216 0334 416333

0336 401 882 0336 401 409 0336 401 895

John Redwood on the euro; Prince of Wales's views on . Page 17

#### COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Evita Peron was the secular saint of the century, now reincarnated by the anti-saint, Mad-

## OBITUARIES

author; Vinces Balickes, former Lithuanian Ambassador in London...

#### apologised again for setbacks to its settlement plan, as a

HISMESS.

Morgan Grenfelt: The fund

manager finally unveiled its

£200 million-plus compensa-

tion package for more than

90,000 investors ..... Page 21

LLoyd's: Lloyd's of London name turned to the courts in an attempt to force pay-

Christmas Turkeys (Quattuorhoræ gasmarktres)

#### Footbalk Stuart Pearce is Nottingham Forest's caretak-

SPORT

Zhababwe Test: IOI not out

Santa's sack is empty. There

#### are no Porsche Boxters or Mercedes SLKs in Britain

from Nasser Hussain helped England to 306 ...... Page 40

London gig...

## These birds emit an increasingly shrill "gobbledegook" whilst being prepared for an election roasting. Not trussworthy.

No big threat: This week, Richard Morrison writes, Jeremy Irons threatened to leave the country if his new film, Lolita, is cen-

Iconesque: Azi DiFranco confirmed her status as a tough folk singer and rising lesbian icon, with a



sored. Oh dear ..... Page 15





Easy listening ..... Page 19

Weekend

animals fare ..... Pages 1,2

of champagne..... Page 4

Sales: The best bar-

The Prodigy: best video

office

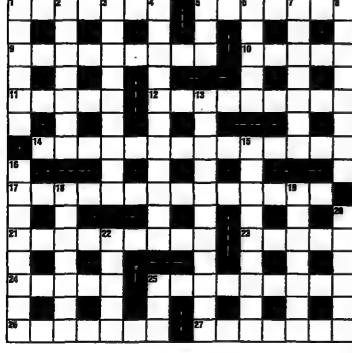
Boxding Day at the box

best films and highlights of all the other smallscreen entertainment up to the end of the year

#### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,357

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



fires (5).

I Marvellous Scot's left political group (7). 5 Girl put on coat for play (7).

9 A girl they maltreated for so very long (5-4).

10 Discover there isn't a feast (5). II Uninvolved in a hoax that back-

12 It's a small world! (9).

14 Horror film review is a study in

the mind's depths (14). 17 A look at life unaffected by past

record (7,7). 21 Naturally receiving fine for going

in wrong direction (3.6). 23 Ruddy cheeky stuff as girl's first

grabbed by lecher (5).

24 In delight, bishop gives land to dergy (5). 25 Woman will support old sailor

26 Toddler's beginning to walk on

short legs? Nonsense! (7). 27 Historian has been upset by a

Solution to Puzzle No 20,351

Solution to Puzzle No 20,356

been damaged (9).

strange person (5).

some respect (4-4).

gun going off (8).

ren (3).

4 Forcibly crush bread in vesse

13 Prison and hard labour, possibly?

15 Eventually team-mate gets on

16 Unlike Blakeney, you heard shot

18 Material for over-rich cheese (7).

19 Crowd's murmuring for food (7). 20 Hell, the French do interrupt

22 You'll find her in high spirits (5).

25 Woman is separated from child-

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: M. R. Abbasi, Prestbury, Cheltenham; J. C. Hearn, Crouch End Hill, London: M. Sargent, Pinner, Middlesex; S. D. Lewis, Ormskirk, Lancashire, E. Gregory, Braes of Garily, Aberdeenshire.

UK Weather-Alf regions 0336 444 910 UK Roads - Alf regions 0336 401 410 0326 401 746 0336 401 747 0336 401 748 0336 401 910 0336 401 388 loside M25 M25 and Link Roads Nacional Mocorways

AA NOODHATION

World City Westher Olietat Plie

Motorwa

0336 401 886 0336 401 887 All Car reports by fax

terr and used car reports from the AA ments of 195 cars 0336 416 399

HOURS OF DARKNESS

 Peasant died — what a shame! (6). London 3 54 pm to 8 05 am Bristol 4 04 pm to 9 14 am Edinburgh 3 40 pm to 8 43 am Manchester 3 51 pm to 8.24 am 2 Plant showing insect damage (7). 3 Mechanic and I relit car that's

TOWNSHIP ON 3 54 pm 5 Forcefully beat up and disfigure (3). 6 French chemist said nothing, a Full moon December 24 7 I've no problem - useless being London 3.54 pm to 8.05 am Bristol 4.04 pm to 8.14 am Edinburgh 3.40 pm to 8.43 am Manchester 3.52 pm to 8.24 am Pengance 4.23 pm to 8.20 am discontented (7).

8 Level of standards dropped in

> HIGH TIDES King's Lynn Lean Lowestaft

HIGHEST & LOWEST

### FORECAST -

☐ General: the South will be over-cast with further rain or drizzle, with sleet in places and snow over hills and Steek in places as it is now over insection.

Downs, although emounts should generally be negligible. Brighter, drier weather in the North may not reach the far South West, it will be cold and

windy. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be bright with surmy intervals. Many places dry but in the east cloudier conditions will produce wintry show-ers, it will be cold but winds will be

ein or drizzle, sleet or snow on hills, slowly clearing from north, Winds fresh or strong easterly. Cold. Max 5C (41F).

☐ E Anglie, E England, NE England: rather cloudy, coastal showers, sleet or snow fluries inland. Wind

fresh or strong easterly. Cold. Max 4C

LI Midlands, in waves, new carg-land, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Ar-gyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: bright

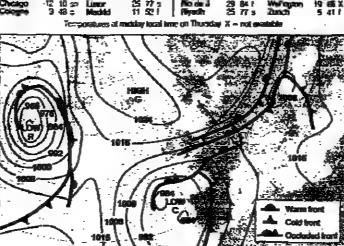
Channel tales: overcast, rain or drizzle at times, dull. Wind strong to gale easterly. Cold. Max 7C (45F). snow flurries inland. Wind light or moderate easterly. Cold. Mex 4C

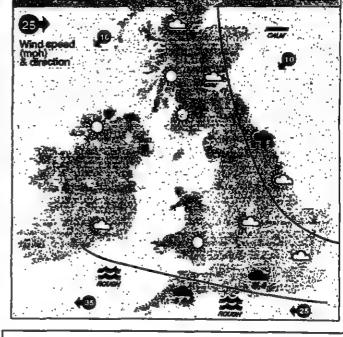
Outlook most places dry and bright, wintry showers in East, cloudy

AROUND BRITAIN

601 Edinburght
Estrauch
Februard
F

ABROAD









THEATRE LONDON 1997 Valid 9/1/97 to 27/4/97 STALLS AND DRESS

CIRCLE SEATS AVAILABLE FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY **EVENING PERFORMANCES** THROUGHOUT JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL. Prices include a Stalls or Dress Circle seat at Her Majesty's

Theatre to see the spectacular award winning musical Phantom of the Opera', plus 2 or 3 nights accommodation at either the Hospitality Inn Piccadilly or The Royal Trafalgar at Trafalgar Square. Both hotels are located within easy walking distance of the theatre - so there's no need to worry about transport!

HOTELS Hospitality Inn Piccadilly. £139

2 Nights 3 Nights

1/ri/Set (first/Set/Set) £189

Royal Trafalgar £143 £195 (Supplement for March and April £6 per person per night) This offer to extend subject to contribution. Prices per a series or double resea. No studie exceptings.

Ask for details of Highlife's additional special savings during January and February

0113 244 5500

mattle fo

Mdeadli

Equities cap the festive sp



INSIDE **SECTION** TODAY

-EVIBER 21)



### **EXECUTIVE VOICE**

Why an independent oil sector remains important to Britain PAGE 22



#### **WORKING WEEK**

Smythson's far from stationary stationer PAGE 23



#### SPORT

Why Shilton is still saving for his old age **PAGES 33-40** 

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF THE STOCK **EXCHANGE** 

PAGE 23

**BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook** 

SATURDAY DECEMBER 21 1996



Many happy returns: Tony Rados, left, finance director of Amtico, and John Harris, chief executive, yesterday celebrating the flooring company's first year as a management buyout and operating profits up 75 per cent and sales up 18 per cent. Staff numbers have increased by 9 per cent, to 440

## Bid deadline extended in battle for Northern

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL:

THE FATE of Northern Electric hung in the balance last night after an 11th-hour extension of the amnouncement of acceptances for CE Electric's hostile bid.

The delayed conclusion to the hard-fought and often controversial £782 million bid battle underlined the closmess of the struggle. Right up to the deadline for acceptances at lpm, it had been clear that investors were torn over the

value of CE Electric's bid. Advisers blamed some of the delay on glitches in Crest, the paperless share-trading

trars, was going on late into the night with a cut-off point set for midnight. The Takeover Panel approved the delay. While acceptances would have drifted in throughout the offer period the institutional

investors would have waited until the last moment in case a white knight bidder appeared.

On Northern's side in one of the toughest battles in recent takeover history has been the public support of three major institutions - Prudential, the largest shareholder, who declared that the bid undervalued Northern, Foreign & Colonial and M & G.

On top of that Northern is a share mark, CE Electric, the its first bid. Counting by Royal thought to have been able to US grouping led by Calrety on substantial support from small shareholders, who . own about 17 per cent of the company. Northern Electric's small shareholder group en-

dorsed the rejection of the 650p-a-share offer and objected to CE Electric's tactic of ringing individual shareholders at home. Northern first rebuffed CE

Electric last month, although the two sides had held talks about a takeover. The regional electricity company, one of the last five independents, complained that a first offer of 630p a share was too low and said it had been willing to enter full negotiations at the £7

agreed offer for London Electricity, and some year-end window dressing by the big City institutions who have

been squaring up their book positions. This has led to stock

end rose & on average.

Stock market, page 24

saying that it had kept an amount in reserve to win over

Doubts about a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission were also overcome when CalEnergy, which is iunk-rated for investment in the US, was able to offer sufficient assurances to the regulator to secure his blessing for the bid.

Northern's board.

CE Electric's swoop on Northern is part of a wave of interest in UK electricity companies by US utilities. Two of the four other independents have agreed US bids and three other regional electricity busi-

US companies.

It is the second time Nort ern has faced a hostile bid. Last year it mounted a £550 million defence against Trafalgar House (since bought by Kvaerner). Northern's defence then was a bumper shareholder giveaway, which came just weeks after the regulator had delivered a pricing review intended to clamp down on electricity prices.

Northern's defence this time revolved around a 17 per cent jump in the dividend for 1998, reductions in gearing and likely joint ventures. It has also increased dividends.

## Morgan Grenfell moves to end trust scandal

PANKING CORRESPONDENT

MORGAN GRENFELL, the troubled fund manager, yes-terday finally unveiled its E200 million-plus compensation package for more than 90,000 investors in three of its Euro pean funds.

After detailed and complex negotiations with external accountants, legal counsel and lmro, the watchdog for fund managers, Morgan Grenfell said it had been agreed that "anyone who was invested in the funds at any time between August 1, 1995 and September 5, 1996 will be considered for compensation, whether or not they continue to hold those investments". Investors will receive the compensation by

the end of next April. Dealings in Morgan Gren-European European Growth and European Capi tal Growth funds were suspended on September 2 after irregularities where found in the trusts' portfolios. Many of the investments held were in highly illiquid and unquoted shares in breach of City rules. Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's parent, purchased £180 million of these securities as a first step to clearing up one of the biggest scandals to

hit the unit trust industry. At the time of the suspension some £1.4 billion was invested in the three funds bu since dealings resumed on September 5 some £400 mil-Peter Young, the fund manager of two of the trusts, was dismissed for "gross misconduct" and is the subject of a continuing Serious Fraud Of-

fice investigation. The August 1995 start date for the compensation was fixed because that is when Morgan Grenfell believes that Mir Young began to establish a complicated web of Luxembourg companies.

Tempus, page 24 Cash or units, page 25
Anne Ashworth, page 27

## WEEKEND



Anne Ashworth on Morgan Grenfell and the watchdog

**BUILDING SOCIETIES** 

News in the new year of Halifax payouts





The true cost of an investment guarantee

PENSIONS

Questions you should ask about



BORROWING



How to shrink your Christmas credit card debt

## BUSINESS TODAY

THE VIRE LONDON

144

3-mith kniterbank . 6°2% · (6°4%)

1.6667 (1.6625) 2.5899 (2.5636) 8.7462 (8.7626) 2.2257 (2.2264) 190.28 (189.59) 94.1 (94.1)

London close ..... \$369,35 (\$369.05)

cuts in industrial gas supplies

denotes midday trading price Gas cuts Fears increased yesterday of

## **Equities capture** the festive spirit

By Michael Clark, stock market correspondent CHRISTMAS came early for corporate bids, including an

investors on the London stock market as share prices soared to their highest levels yet. The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares reached 4,100 for the first time before seeing earlier gains halved. Even so, it ended 26.3 up at a record closing high of 4,077.6, a rise on the week of 105 points.

It followed a breathtaking performance overnight on Wall Street where the Dow Jones industrial average soared 136 points, its biggest one-day rise for nine years. In early trading last night, Wall Street kept up the pace with a rise of 75 points. before the Dow fell back to reduce the lead to 3Ll at

The London market this week has been fuelled by a series of

#### Newman Tonks sells £27m stake

BY OLIVER AUGUST

NEWMAN TONKS, the engineering company, yester-day strengthened its def-ences against a hostile bid from FKI by selling its 33 per cent stake in a Spanish security products company for £27 million.

Newman's stake plus a majority family stake in Tesa, based in Iróm, northeast

shortages.

Brokers have reported some heavy turnover in shares this week although much of it has Spain, were bought by Wil-hams, the fire protection products manufacturer, for a been conducted between traders, presenting a slightly false view of events. A total of 944 million shares had changed by total of £100 million. FKI had launched a £200 million offer the close of business last night. The bond market experienced for Newman Tonks last Tuesa further flattening of the yield day after criticising the Newman management for lack of curve as investors continued focus and underperformance. Geoff Gahan, Newman switching out of shorter-dated coupons. Prices at the longer

chief executive, said; "We are deploying financial resources away from non-core areas."

## Name turns to the courts for payment

LLOYD'S of London apologised again yesterday for setbacks to its settlement plan. as a name turned to the courts in an attempt to force payment of funds. The unidentified name is suing Lloyd's for E33,428, in what is seen as a tent trust

The plaintiff is one of 12,000 "accepting" names owed money under the Lloyd's settlement. More than 8,400 have been paid - 210 cheques worth E9 million were dispatched yesterday — but progress has been frustratingly slow. Lloyd's has admitted that the payments will continue well beyond the original mid-December deadline.

Michael Freeman, the lawyer acting in the case, speaks for 240 accepting names, none

of whom has been paid. One couple is owed £500,000. Mr Freeman said: "They are not getting their cheques." Lloyd's said there was al-

ways a risk that payments would slip into 1997, and described the court action as "completely irrational". John Stace, deputy chairman, said: There is nothing sinister. All the money is there."

Names are due interest on outstanding funds. A separate test case seeking judgments against "non-accepting" names was adjourned yesterday until mid-January.

☐ Corporate capital will dominate Lloyd's within two years. says a survey by Whittingdale, the fund management group. Respondents described names as a dying breed.

## Store chiefs leave revamped Lloyds TSB



BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE battle for financial services supremacy in the high street yesterday led to wide-sweeping boardroom changes at Lloyds TSB Group in an attempt to avoid growing conflicts of

The banking group announced that Sir Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks & Spencer, who became a bank director in 1992, and John Gildersleeve, a Tesco director, who linked-up with Lloyds Bank in 1994, are to stand

Lloyds TSB said that the two senior directors had decided that "it would be appropriate for them to leave the board, as both Marks & Spencer and Tescohave increased their involvement in the provision of financial services".

Marks & Spencer promotes its own plastic card as well as branded unit trusts, loans and personal pensions, and the decision by Sir Richard to sever his Lloyds TSB link may herald a further move by M&S into personal financial services. Tesco offers its customers a Clubcard payment card in conjunction with NatWest, and more

developments are expected in this field. The hoardroom changes at Lloyds TSB precede Peter Ellwood taking the helm as group chief executive in February, when he is to succeed Sir Brian Pitman, who will become the bank's chairman, in place of Sir Robin

Ibbs who is retiring. Other appointments include the

executive of Cheltenham & Gloucester, the former building society and now the banking group's residential mortgage arm, who becomes group director of customer finance. Mr Longhurst will also become chairman of C&G in place of John Bays, who will become deputy chairman

Kent Atkinson is to become the group finance director and Michael Fairey will be the group director of central services, with responsibility for the retail networks of Lloyds and TSB as integration continues.

Stephen Maran will take charge of savings and investments at board level, as well as the integration of Lloyds Abbey Life into the rapidly expanding banking group.





## Why Britain still needs an independent oil sector

ritain is unique in Europe in having established a substantial, independent exploration and production sector (E & P). Experience has amply demonstrated that the independents have made, and continue to make, a vital contribution to the UK economy, and help to sustain the power and effectiveness of the UK oil and

gas industry. Our independent E & P companies are at the heart of a liberalised energy market and provide secure and diverse supplies at competitive prices. They deserve a place in the UK energy market because they provide costeffective and imaginative ways of exploring and exploiting our North Sea assets, as well as ensuring continuing interest from the financial sector in its continued development

The professionalism and technological know-how of these dynamic British businesses much sought after around the world and, quite apart from the wealth they create for shareholders, their export of skills is of real benefit to the UK economy.

In the mid 1980s, Brinder (the Association of British Independent Oil Exploration Companies). the trade body of UK indepen-dents of which I was chairman. boasted a membership of more than 50 companies. After last year's disappearance of Goal and Aran, the roll call now stands at just 11 companies. As this year ends, another of that number the company where I have spent the past 23 years - finds itself in the sights of a predator seeking its

valuable assets. While the number of independents has fallen, their status has increased substantially. Collectively we now enjoy a market capitalisation of more than £7.5 billion and currently employ around 3,000 people in our North Sea and worldwide activities. We operate in 38 countries worldwide, we have combined reserves of more than one billion barrels of oil and five-and-a-half trillion

cubic feet of gas. The UK independents offer investors a diversity of companies to invest in, ranging from those engaged in high-risk exploration to those who concentrate on lower-risk exploitation.

The professionalism and sophistication developed within the British independents continues to lead to ever greater successes, and not just through speculative activity but by developing clear strategies that focus on production yield management, low-cost development and leading edge infrastructure technology, that in turn add

What should be remembered is that the history of oil and gas discoveries and developments in the North Sea is one in which the independents have made a major contribution. Through numerous joint venture partnerships, a symbiotic relationship has grown be-tween the majors and both larger and smaller independents; each has its role but they interact with positive results in operational, technical and commercial spheres.



Malcolm Gourlay

Going back to the early history of North Sea oil developments, the initial four rounds of UK offshore licence awards went principally to the major oil companies. But from the fifth round onwards, the independent sector has gained a far greater share of the licences being awarded, tapping new sources of finance in the form of risk capital and debt finance and

and partnerships with the major deed, ironic to note that the international players.

Since the mid-1970s, the independent sector has made a substantial and growing contribution in exploration and development and innovative financing. Many of the skills developed within this sector have a particular relevance to a maturing hydrocarbon province such as the North Sea and, therefore, with suitable encourent, the remaining independents should be playing an even greater role in the future of the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS).

The independent companies have become skilled at improving their competitive positions by finding lower-cost solutions for future operations and developments that will be vital as the North Sea matures. In our own case, that has meant the use of low-cost reusable platforms on our offshore Dutch gasfields and the introduction of a purpose built floating production vessel in the fast-track development of the UKCS Gryphon Field. It is, in-

approach to my company, Clyde, came just 48 hours after we announced an agreement with BP and BHP that gave us our first operated development in the UKCS. Such deals are typical of the ways in which efficient independents can - and should - be acquiring acreage that would be deemed peripheral or marginal by the multinationals and making

Both the challenge and the opportunity for the independent sector is to ensure that the UK's offshore oil and gas assets continue to be exploited by their true potential. We need to win more access, for example, to the larger amounts of acreage that remain under-explored and under-exploited. As a group of UK inde-pendents we strongly support the Department of Trade & Industry in its efforts to find more effective

those assets perform.

ways of releasing such acreage. Over the past 25 years, British independent E & P companies have developed the management

skills to bring new exploration and exploitation ideas to bear and to develop, on a cost-effective basis, smaller oil and gasfields on long-held acreage, which may not be a priority for the giants of our in this on's

The British independents compete successfully on the world stage in international exploration and production ventures. We ensure that the UK economy gets full benefit from the considerable remaining potential of the North Sea and so provide a stable platform (no pun intended!) for our continuing growth both at home and overseas.

☐ Malcolm Gourlay is chairman of Clyde Petroleum, one of the UK's leading independent exploration and production com-panies. He is also a past chairman of Brindex, the Association of British Independent Oil Exploration Companies, and was recently elected honorary treasurer of UKOOA, the UK Off-

#### Vardey to resign at exchange

BY ROBERT MILLER GILES VARDEY, a senior

Stock Exchange, yesterday announced his resignation announced his resignation publicly, so permitting his entry into talks with pros-pective market employers. Mr Vardey, who is 40, has been at the Stock Exchange for four years as director of markets development and marketing. At one stage earlier this year, City watchers had him listed as an

outside bet for the chief executive's post, which went to Gavin Casey, the former Smith New Court and then Merrill Lynch executive. It was no secret in the market that Mr Vardey would have liked to have won the top job, but it is understood that he never formally submitted an application. Mr Vardey will stay in his present post until the end of March,

but vesterday's announcement frees him to talk to

other Stock Exchange

member firms without

giving rise to any potential

John Kemp-Welch, the years, Giles Vardey has made a valuable contribution to many areas of the

work of the exchange."

## Otgas warns industrial users of supply cuts

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

FEARS increased yesterday of cuts in industrial gas supplies this winter when the regulator gave warning of significant interruptions and of the potential for gas prices in the

wholesale market to rocket. The alert follows a similar warning from TransCo, British Gas's pipelines division. that large gas users with interruptible contracts were

likely to see supplies cut. The impact of large cuts in industrial contracts triggered the Department of Trade and Industry to intervene in the electricity industry so that the security of generation — much of which is gas-fired — was maintained. The electricity pool, the wholesale market for power, implemented controversial measures by which generators are paid extra if they switch fuels and keep power stations available.

Ofgas said that in harsh interruptions of customers with interruptible gas contracts could well occur". A report also emphasised that short-term gas prices in the

wholesale gas market - the flexibility mechanism - may be very high".

Large industrial users that take interruptible contracts because they offer cheaper fuel often leave themselves without back-up supplies. Controversially, a large number of hospitals use such contracts.

Concern over gas supply security has been triggered because of increased demand and also because of the way in which gas supplies must now be balanced by shippers on a daily basis under the network code designed to ensure competition works effectively. Ofgas has asked TransCo to consider whether changes to the code are needed. So far there have been 108 modifications to the code introduced in March and further changes

Ofgas complained of a lack of communication last winter some interruptions. The company said that it had already addressed such problems and was seeking closer liaison with gas shippers and customers.



Profit hitch: Marshall Smalley, right, managthat a poor poppy harvest was hitting margins on its opiate-based products. Its contract manufacture business is also expected to show a more modest rate of growth, although overall year-on-year progress should be better.

But shares in the company rose 1312 p to close at a record high of 328 20, after the doubling in halfyear profits, before tax, to \$4.8 million. Turnover margins improved 4.8 per cent, to 34.7 per cent, as the company continued its shift away from the opiates business to contract manufacture. The interim dividend was lifted 21 per cent, to 2p, payable February 4. Tempus, page 24

## EAGER investors have made sure that the £42 million

Sunderland popular

flotation of Sunderland, the Premiership football club, is 2.7 times oversubscribed. This means that a healthy premium is expected when the shares start trading on Christmas Eve and bodes well for the impending flotation of near neighbours Newcastle United, which said it will go for a £160 million flotation in the new year. Meanwhile West Bromwich Albion, the Nationwide Division One club, has confirmed it is to take a listing on AIM. No new money is being raised.

Fortis ties up £858m

FORTIS, the Dutch-Belgium insurance, banking and

investment group, yesterday became the world's 14th largest asset manager after completing the ESSS million purchase of MeesPierson from ABN Amro, the Dutch banking combine.

The MeesPierson deal, one of the largest acquisitions in Dunch history, will give Fortis total assets under management of £75 billion. To finance the acquisition of

MeesPierson, which specialises in asset management and private banking, Fortis will increase its net equity, reallocate

existing available funds and employ other financing

Fortis said of the deal: "The acquisition is a perfect fit in the

group's strategy, and is also fully in line with its financial and.

equisition criteria. MeesPierson will provide Fortis with both critical mass in asset management and new, complementary activities in attractive markets, including

private banking and corporate banking. The newly enlarged bank, which will be the fourth largest in The Netherlands,

continued: "The addition of this new component to the group will create even more opportunities for Fortis companie starting with those in The Netherlands."

**MeesPierson deal** 

#### Forminster advances

OKMINSIEK. THE COL Kookai, the up-market fashion chain, in August, has reported a rise in interim pre-tax profits to £768,000 in the half year to October 31, from £512,000 in the same period last year. Turnover was down to £10.8 million, from £11.6 million. Earnings per share were up to 4.07p, from 2.36p. There will be an interim dividend of 1.22p per ordinary share, up from 1.17p. The dividend will be payable on

### Lancashire lifts profit

LANCASHIRE ENTERPRISES, the economic development specialists, yesterday reported a 7.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.96 million (£2.66 million) for the year ending October 31. Turnover was up from £18.37 million to £20.21 million and basic earnings per share were up 1.8 per cent to 11.1p. The dividend per share is 4.4p (4p), payable on April 30. This year saw the retirement as managing director of Michael Hynes, who has led the company since it became a plc in 1989. The shares were unchanged at 150p.

#### UK Estate urges rebuff

UK ESTATE, the property group, yesterday urged share-holders to reject a hostile all-paper takeover bid by its rival, Ashquay. David Gradel, chairman, said Ashquay's falling share price had lowered the value of its offers to only 28 ip. "Ashquay's high gearing, soaring debts and limited cash resources make it difficult to believe that this is a credible basis for making their offers," he said. Ashquay has received around 37.8 per cent of UK Estate's ordinary shares and 16.6 per cent of preference, and has extended its offers until January 9.

#### Claremont cautious

TOURIST

RATES

France Fr
Germany Drn
Greece Dr
Jeng Kong S
Icoland
Iroland Pr
Israel Shit
Israel Fr
Israel Shit
Israel Ten
Japan Yen
Jesta Metheride Glid
Israel Ten
Service Rid
S Albide Rid
Sweden Ny
S

CLAREMONT GARMENTS, a clothing supplier to Marks & Spencer, said yesterday that sales in the immediate run-up to Christmas have been below expectations and that its second-half profit will be lower than last year. But it also said that pressures on margins in the clothing industry are easing after a difficult 18 months. The company, which announced two months ago that it was to close a factory in Scotland, said £7 million restructuring costs will be taken as an exceptional item in this year's accounts. The shares slid op to 1662 p.

#### Oil and Gas Development **Corporation**



PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT (FOREIGN WING) ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has received a loan from the International Bank For Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of Domestic Energy Resources Development Project (DERDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the procurement of various items IFB "A" Proc-FB/WB/ICB/0-16/95:

1. 13-3/8 OD Seamless Casing conforming to API Spec 5CT grade J-55 WT 68#ft, BTC, R-3, (Quantity 3300 Meters)

2. 9-5/8 OD Seamless Casing conforming to API Spec 5CT grade N-80, WT 43#/tt, BTC, R-3. (Quantity 9400 Meters)

#### IFB 'B" Proc-FW/WB/ICB/WS-17/96

1. Package consisting of (i) API Bentonite (150 Metric Toni, (ii) CMC(LV) (20 M.Ton). (iii) CMC(LV) (24 M.Ton), (iv) Chrome Lignite (16 M.Ton), (v) Ferro Chrome Lignosniphoneste (20 M.Ton), (vi) Synergistic Polymer Blend (10 M.Ton) (vii) Shale Stabilizer (10 M.Ton), (viii) Non Damaging Cellosic Fibrous LCM (Fine) (15 M.Ton) (ix) Non Damaging Cellosic Fibrous LCM (Corex) (15 M.Ton), (x) Spotting Chemical (06 M.Ton) (xi) Acid Schuble Lost Circulation Materials (10 M.Ton) (xii) Drilling Detergents (55 Gallon 10 Drums). (xiii) Mud Defoamer (xiv) Mud Lubricant (55 Gallon 10 Drums). IFB "C" Proc-FW/WB/ICB/DRM-18/96

1. Packages consisting of i) Cat Engines. (02 Nos.) ii) Mud Agitator with Jet Venturi and Shale Shaker iii) Air Winch iv) Triplex Mud Pumps unitized with Cat Engines (02 Nos.) v) Vibrators Hoses and Rotary Hoses (06 Nos.), vi) Drilling Rig Handling Tools viii Kelly Saver Subs (10 Nos.) viii) Liner Hangers (05 Nos.) ix) Casing Accessories. x)

3. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provision of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.

4. For further information and details, interested bidder may purchase bidding documents from the Office of Manger (Procurement). Oil and Gas Development Corporation, Markaz F-3, Islamabad Pakistan, upon written request and payment of non refundable fee of Rs 2000 for each bidding document, through Pay Order/Demand Draft

5. Biddling documents would be available for sale from 21st December 1996 and the last date for purchase of Bidding Documents is 09 January, 1997. The bids submission date is 28 January 1997 (for IFB "A"), 29 January (for IFB "B") and 30 January 1997 (for IFB

6. Bids must be delivered to the above named officer on or before 11:00 hrs on specified dates and shall be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who chose to attend, at 11 30 hours, same day at the same office.

Bidder must take ricte of the following mandatory requirements:-

7.1 Bid must be valid for a period of 120 days from the date of bid opening. 7.2 Bid must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to 2% of the total CRF bid

value and it must be valid for 120 days from the date of bid opening

7.3 Price Schedule must be signed and stamped by the Bidder 7.4 Bid Form and Price Schedule be submitted with the Bid

7.5 Bid must be based on firm prices and not on any price adjustable formula.

7.6 Bid must be prepared in English.

7.7 Bid must be submitted on or before the date and time specified to the designated

7.8 Fax bids would not be accepted. 8. Non compliance to the above mandatory requirement will be deemed to be a material deviation which will make the bid non-responsive.

Mananger (Procurement)

### Symonds paying £4m for Calne Group

By OLIVER AUGUST

SYMONDS, the engineering group, is to buy Caine Group, the electronics company, for

To fund the acquisition and to strengthen its capital base. Symonds is planning a 59.6 million placing and open

The acquisition is said to enhance Symonds's test, design, manufacturing and assembly capabilities and allow the group to focus on the industrial controls and trans-

portation sectors. Rod Ackrill, the chairman of Symonds, said: "Calne will group's capability within the electronics industry and enable it to continue to make satisfactory progress.

An extraordinary meeting to gain shareholder approval for the acquisition has been called for January lo. The arrival of a new man-

Ackrill in 1993 led to a restructuring of Symonds and a change of emphasis from engineering to electronics. In the same period, the

market capitalisation of the group has increased from £2 million to more than £29 broaden and enhance the

### **AEA** to buy **BR** Research

AEA TECHNOLOGY, the recently privatised science and engineering services group, is poised to buy British Rail Research for £10.8 million (Chris Ayres writes).

The aquisition of BR Re-search, which provides consultancy, research, and engineering services, will allow AEA to satisfy overseas ambitions in the transport industry.

BR Research, which employs abour 260 people, reported pre-tax profits of £1.4 million on a turnover of £17.8 million in the year ending March 31. Net assets were £2.9 million. AEA's pre-tax operating profits were £6.4 million on a turnover of £112 million for the half year

## Blind climber wins 'Oscar'

BY MORAG PRESTON

A BLIND telephonist who climbed Mont Blanc, Western Europe's highest peak, to raise money for charity and an internal audit manager who was the inspiration for raising funds for a special needs school were among the winners yesterday at Nat-West's Group Chief Executive Awards ceremony.

Set up four years ago, the group-wide award scheme has helped to raise hundreds of thousands of pounds for local charmes. The seven winners, who included Jane Nunn. an internal audit manager, received £2,000 each for their chosen charity, while the 12 finalists took £1,000 home to their voluntary organisations. All were selected from around ZRI entrants who put them-selves forward for the fundraising awards that the bank refers to as its "Oscars".

Derek Wanless, chief executive at NatWest, says: "It is about spreading good practice." His intention is to match



Derek Wanless with Jane Nunn and Donald Planner

ployees with cash, and to provide the fundraising pro-gramme with the high-profile backing of a hard-nosed business approach. The benefits for the bank are twofold, he said, enabling staff to develop a diversity of business skills outside the rigid promotional ladder" - and to keep them in touch with the real world." Winner Donald Planner.

49. a telephonist in Retail Banking Services at NatWest in Poole, climbed Mont Blanc last June, raising around £8,000 for St Dunstans & the Royal School for the Blind, "It was hard work," he admits. "Hopefully by overcoming the fact that I am blind and that I had a heart bypass only months before the climb has inspired a lot of other people." He has set his sights on

climbing another mountain. this time in Russia, next year. Among the judges were Rabbi Julia Neuberger, the social commentator and writer, Jill Pitkeathley, director of the National Carers Association and Ian Bruce, director of the Royal National Institute for

### THE SUNDAY TIMES The winners and losers of 1996

Which businessman made the most money in the last 12 months? Who saw the biggest deat in their fortune? Which companies produced the best and worst performances?

ي ورفود .

Tomorrow The Sunday Times reveals the financial winners and losers of 1996



ROUNDUP

Pierson deal

is claimed popular

Continue little profi

े जाता प्रतिकारिक

want coulog

## A WORKING WEEK FOR: Sarah Elton

## Smythson's far from stationary stationer

Sarah Cunningham meets a woman who has brought growth without offending the old guard



of Smyththe midst of

AS manag-ing director

ple royal-warrant-holding stationer, the last few days before Christmas disappear in a blur of Christmas shoppers and party invitation printing.

The parties are not always the standard cocktail bash. The company has produced invitations for a cat's party, and even made hand-engraved visiting cards for dogs. For those seeking gift inspiration there are more traditional goods like leather-bound books for registering fishing and hunting catches, as well as diaries, cellar books, clocks, photo albums and fine leather wallets, purses and hand bags.

Elton's working life is busy at the best of times. The company, part of the John

'I thought I'd

give up work

after children,

but ... I get a

group, has exidly since she managing diyears ago. Not only have

buzz from work' cent increase but the company has also moved from the small Bond Street shop it occupied since its establishment in 1887, to a much larger store down the added a second Smythson store in Sloane Street, as well s a franchise in Harvey Nichols and another in

New York or the Far East. At 33 years old, the tall, blonde and charming Elton is very young for her job, and her achievements are all the more remarkable if you take into account that she has had two lots of maternity leave since she took over. She now has two daughters, Harriet.

Heathrow's Terminal 4. The

next is likely to be abroad, in

Elizabeth, six When she joined the company five years ago she was amazed how narrow the cus-tomer base was. "I felt like Smythson was the world's best kept secret," she says. Her biggest success, in her view, has been bringing in new

customers without losing the original base, which although declining, was very loyal and

needed to be reassured. We've always had quite a large smattering of film stars and so on as customers, but in England we have had a lot of county people," she said. "We have to be discreet, handling invitations for very smart weddings and parties and so on. Our customers like the fact that they can trust us."

She is discreet about the identity of Smythson's customers, but drops hints: "Quite new big stars in the States come to us almost immediately, it is quite extraordinary. There is very strong word of mouth worldwide. There are also a lot of the big fashion names from Bond Street."

Most of the crowned heads of Europe, as well as our own Royals, are customers. Others reputed to use the shop include Lauren Bacall, Dustin Hoffman, Jack Nicholson, Frank Sinatra and Giorgio Armani. Elton's first move away from the traditional base was to

open the Harvey Nichols franchise: obviously a very different customer." Goods were carefully se-

lected to suit

the more fashion-conscious Harvey Nick's shopper. "The business was a little bit old-fashioned and we worked quite hard to make it more contemporary, she says diplomatically.

For someone with so many demands to meet, Elton has a remarkable breeziness. Her ambition, she says, comes from an inability to cope with boredom. The word "smart" peppers her conversation, and providing smart goods for smart people and amart occasions is something she enjoys - enormousiv. .

She is also utterly committed to the world of retailing. Her first experience came through when at school. After Exeter University, where she read history, she joined the John Lewis management training scheme, turning down possible jobs at Harrods and Aspreys because slie was unimpressed

at their interviews. After five years working in a variety of departments at John Lewis, she moved to Retail



Having helped Smythson to boost its profile, sales and number of outlets in the UK, Sarah Elton is now looking to expand overseas, probably in New York or the Far East

Solutions, a retail management consultancy. This showed her the other side of retailing: "It taught me a lot about how important the visual aspects of the job are - patterns, design, layout. These things can't be bolted on: I think you need a consistent vision about what you're doing."

Expanding Smythson with-out losing cachet is a difficult trick, she admits. We are ideas, but we do have a contract with our customers to keep ourselves a little bit special and different."

The high production stan-dards make it difficult to make dramatic increases in output, but she adds: "Having said that, we are looking overseas as the next step." New York or

next branch of Smythson, but not too soon. "The next step will be crucial for us, we're not going to rush it. One thing I think I have given to the company is confidence, and at the end of the day, I feel we know best."

Smythson is very small compared with some French and Italian luxury goods companies, like LVMH and Gucci, and it is not racing for the big luxury goods, the difficulty is reaching a wider market but retaining control,"

What Smythson does have. which sets it apart from continental luxury goods com-panies, is a fine tradition of British craftsmanship. "Being British is important to us. We are not too loud. The story about luxury goods in the

Nineties is much more about discerning customers.

They will not just fall for a logo, they want to know they have bought the best. We're ideally positioned for that because we are the real Mc-Coy — we have all that heritage and history and expertise. We're all content and no flash."

Although Smythson is wholly owned by John Menzies, it

is run as a separate business. which is good news for Elton. They trust me, I hope, therefore they give me a lot of freedom," she says. "They don't try to say to me 'we do it

Juggling work and home has not proven as hard as she had feared. The company has taken the admirable, but alltoo-rare step of allowing her to work a four-day week, and she

Now you can enjoy a year

has a nanny to look after her young daughters when she is Graham, who is a director of Pearson Professional, is often away on business, but is extremely supportive of her

commitment to her job. Elton's sense of commit-ment to Smythson has surprised even her, "I'd always thought I'd give up work when I had children, but you spend

sort of person and it is very difficult to give it up. I get a buzz out of work," she says. It is hard to imagine that Elton's ambitions will not take her up and away from Smythson in the long run, but not before she has introduced more people into the secret

world of what she proudly

calls "probably the best statio-

nery in the world".

ten years becoming a certain

## The secret hoard seen by only a few privileged eyes

The London Stock Exchange has been fortu-nate over the centuries to have acquired a magnificent and varied collection of valuable decorative assets, most of them presented by other stock exchanges around the world or by brokers or corporate members, grateful for the Ex-change's successful handling of their assets during wars and other crises. Many of these generous donations have been in the form of highly elaborate silverware, ail valuable as individual items, but as a collection virtually priceless.

These fine pieces, however, have been so well hidden one might say so effectively forgotten — that no one within this grand old institution seems to know exactly what they are, when they were given, by whom, or indeed where they might be Joanna Pitman enjoys a rare glimpse of the Stock Exchange's family silver

decorative silver appears to be hidden from the remit of the in-house public relations team, from the brief of the premises manager, from other members of staff and the

The collection includes piles

of solid silver salvers, a forest of candalabras, hillocks of rose bowls, loving cups, pottingers, cigar boxes, cigarette boxes, ashtrays, stone-studded chalices, medals, mustard pots, ink stands, cream jugs and enough sets of solid silver cutlery to cater for most of the population of Denmark. A strongroom, about the size of a couple of tennis courts, is stuffed with this haul of presents, which are reassessed by valuations experts from Hennells once a decade. In all, there are thought to be "something like

200 pieces" (which does not account for an unknown number of 80-piece cutlery sets and numerous sets of matching platters and

Apart from the Hennells men, it is only the occasional waiter who gets to see the collection when sent down to the strong room by the butler to retrieve a few of the more utilitarian items for use during special banquets. A small number of prize

pieces (about 20) are displayed in a cabinet in a dining room on the twentythird floor. Here we find some of the most elaborately worked silver and silver gilt items imaginable. There is, for example, a huge silver gilt rosewater dish made in Italy in 1600. Twenty-four inches

in diameter and weighing 180 oz, it is decorated in the with the shield and coronet of the Italian family for whom the work was done. The rim is similarly chased with decorative figures describing events in the life of Andrea Doria, the Genoese admiral of the 16th century. The engraving on the back of the dish reads, "The Governor and Company of the Bank of England to the Chairman and Committee of The Stock Exchange in recollection of close and friendly co-opera-tion during and after the war

Beside this extraordinary piece sits another, larger, silver rosewater dish, 30 inches in diameter and likewise chased with an elaborate landscape scene and figures. This was presented by 16 firms to the Stock Exchange's sub-committee of the general purposes committee, appointed to deal with the crisis of 1929-1930.

In recent years the flow of gifts has ebbed, the last bumper crop being in 1986 when the Exchange hosted the twenty-fifth anniversary party of the Federation of International

Exchanges.

Given the extent and value of the pieces, which range from a Northolt Park Races Toby Cup to a large solid silver grasshopper, it is surely time for an exhibition of the whole lot. Apart from the obvious interest for the public, the Stock Exchange's own staff may learn a thing or two about what resides behind locks and chains beneath



☐ I would like to take advantage of The TLS Browser Subscription offer. I understand I save 17.5% on the UK cover price and pay just £19.75.

Overseas subscribers save even more.

☐ I enclose a cheque for £\_ payable to The Times Literary Supplement ☐ Please charge my VISA/Mastercard/AMEX No.

Please send to TLS Subscriptions, PO Box 14, Harold Hill,

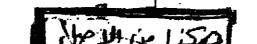
Romford RM3 8EQ Credit card botline +44 (0) 1708 378 379

Call now and subscribe over the phone.

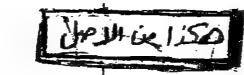
Tick if you do not want to receive mad from companies whose products and services feel may be of interest to you.  $\Box$ 



Clare Allison with some items from the London Stock Exchange's elaborate collection



Taken to the wire







## MICHAEL CLARK

## Shares break records on both sides of the Atlantic

being rewritten last night as share prices continued to ride high on both sides of the

In London, equities soared to their highest levels ever, briefly reching the 4.100 level. as the pre-Christmas rally

gathered pace. This followed a 136-point leap by the Dow Jones industrial average overnight — its biggest one-day rise for nine years. However, with Wall Street showing signs of running out of steam in early trading yesterday, the FT-SE 100 index also saw earlier gains almost halved. It still finished 26.3 points up at a new closing high of 4,077.6, a rise on the week of 105.2. Once again turnover levels were bolstered by year-end window dressing by institutional investors, with 954 million

shares changing hands. Bid speculation continued to drive General Accident sharply higher. It added a further 10p at 760p, after briefly touching 7681 ap. This stretches the lead on the week to 72p. Once again there was talk about a possible bid from BAT Industries after its talks with Commercial Union, lp lower at 687p, broke down last month. BAT Industries finished 4p cheaper at 480p.

Dalgety's talks with brokers this week have borne fruit, with the price adding another

7<sup>1</sup>2p at 361<sup>1</sup>2p. British Steel slipped 1<sup>3</sup>4p to 1621ap as a large line of shares went through the market at a discount. A total of 9.98 million were placed at 161p, a discount of 314p to the ruling market price of 1641 ap.
Rank Organisation slipped

another 312p to 414p as brokers continued to reflect on Thursday's downbeat trading statement. GKN continued to lose ground in the wake of this week's US court ruling. The shares fell a further 17p to

99212p. Northern Electric firmed 4p to 64lp as the deadline for CE Electric's bid of £665 million expired. At the last count, the US power company accounted for 33 per cent of the shares. The remaining regional electricity companies were marked higher. East Mid land, the subject of an offer from Dominion Resources. firmed 12p at 665p, while London, which earlier this week agreed a bid from Entergy, added 212p at 69812p.



Selling pressure knocked 312p off Burton shares

Yorkshire Electricity, 121 ap at 772p, Southern Electric, 51 ap at 778'2p, Northern Ireland Electricity, 9p at 379p, Nat-ional Power, 6p at 478p, PowerGen, 3p at 58lp, Scottish Power, 112p at 34612p, and Scottish Hydro 11120 at 3330.

A positive trading statement lifted English China Clays 14p to 1912p, with the group

Arrow Electronics in the US for \$300 million. The disposal is expected to raise a surplus above book value of £70 million.

Claremont Garments dropped op to 1661 ap after the company expressed disappointment with the pace of sales in the run-up to Christmas. The group said that sales had failed to match

New Year tipsters are already out in force and working to massage some life back into debt-laden Queens Mont. The price put in a late advance to finish 114p up, at 1614p, as 3.8 million shares were traded and word went out that the next stop for the price would be 20p. Certainly not one for widows and orphans.

talking about improved trading margins in the second half. Restructuring charges would total £12 million.

Graham Group, the builders' merchant, also came in for fresh support, adding 312p at 12912p in heavy turnover that saw 1.72 million shares change

hands in a thin market. Newly merged Premier jumped 2712p to 71212p in response to the news that it has sold its Farnell Electronic Services division to

expectations with excess costs from its business review, leaving profits below those of the corresponding period last year. Claremont maintains that margin pressures are easing and prospects for 1997 remain good.

There does not appear much cheer at SR Gent, which plunged into the red last year losses of £11 million, against a surplus last time of £6.5 million. This was after exceptional costs of £16 million

MOVERS	OF THE WEEK
The second state of the second	
Current price	West's
Newmen Tonks,, 151½p	+49pFKi bids +27½pMerges with Lloyd Thompson
JIB Group 135%p Gibbs Mew215p	-84p Profits setback
Eyecare Products 17½p General Accident760p	+72p Bid speculation
Burnfield 141%p	+42b Fairev bide
Sherwood Group 44½p Clyde Petroleum 117½p	-14pSecond profits warning +37½p Gulf Canada Resources bids
Reitrack393o	+38½p Buving for the dividend

were placed at 15012p. Castle Mill, another textiles group, was steady at 334p after

announcing reduced losses in the first six months of the year. Aquarius Group, the furn-ishings group, made a positive start in first-time dealings, opening at 17212p, against a placing price of 166p. The shares later dipped to 17012p before recovering to end at 17212p, a premium of 612p.

1 2p to 127p.

Over on Olex, Sardis International started trading at 11p after a placing at 10p by Griffiths & Lamb, the broker. The group's sound system is used in theme park simulator

The breakdown in bid talks with Panther Securities left Exmoor Dual Investment Trust 112p lower at 12p.

It looks like being a merry Christmas for Toy Options. which is expected to benefit from booming sales of Buzz Lightyear dolls this year. However, after touching 10712p, the shares closed all square at 10312p. GILT-EDGED: There was

a further flattening of the yield curve as the London market took its lead from firmer German bunds to extend this week's gains. Once again, the best im-

provements were seen at the longer end, while prices among shorter-dated coupons were held back by persistent interest rate worries in futures, the March series of the long gilt put on E's at

£1093 to as the total number of contracts completed reached Treasury 8 per cent put on £932 at £10234, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was just a tick

firmer at £1021932. Wall Street were mixed at mid-session after a powerful opening drive steadily lost steam during the rest of the morning. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was up 14.61 points at 6.488.25.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Tokyo: Nikkel Ases Amsterdam Frankfurt 2854-45 (+46.70) 2196.81 (-254)

Brussels: Barn. Margins continue to suffer. The shares rose 2p to 2278.53 (+39.83) Zurich: The news from Claremont 233.80 (+2.80) and Gent left two of their biggest customers nursing six-London able falls. Next fell 712p to 54412p and Marks & Spencer FT 100 . 4077 A (+20\_3)

1112p to 47212p. Coats Viyelia, which issued a profits warn-1884 23 (+23.13) FT All-Share \_\_\_\_\_ FT Non Financials 1993.71 (+13.86) 2074.31 (+13.66) \_\_\_\_\_ 116.39 (+0.22) \_\_\_\_\_ 96.31 (+0.26) ing earlier in the week, rallied Elsewhere among the retail-ers, Burton eased 312p to 151p as a line of 7.3 million shares

bank of England official close (40m) RPI ....... 153.9 Nov (2.7%) Jan 1987=100 RPIX ...... 153.7 Nov (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

#### RECENT ISSUES:

Administra Power Con	82	-	14
Aquartus	1724		
Archer Dedicated	100		
BZW Endowment Re	42%		Zt,
-deentre	340%	+	3
Colt Telecom (275)	250	+	45
Crown Leisure	RI%	٠	1
Dawn Til Dusk	1215		
Finsbury Intl Hedge	615	*	2.
Fountain Forestry	841		
Henderson Tech C	344	+	84
Highams Systems	1100		3
Kern River	50%		
Kler Group	187'2	+	2
Linden	164%		
Netcali	49%		
Oliver Ashworth	1354	. [	
On-Une	1024		
Oxford Biomedica	695	+	5
Parkwood Holdings	79'	_	E,
Pilat Technologies	554		
Provend (125)	1374	_	••
SDX Business Sys	170%		
Scot Highland Hus	1.381		I
Semple Cockman	2425		io.

	- 1		27	
. 1		1116	100	1250
	LE CAL	$\mathbf{u}$		
<i>p</i>	_	• •		

.... 146p (+11p) .... 182p (+11p)

5861±0 (+29p

. 319p (+15<sup>1</sup>40)

Closing Prices Page 32

..... 623p (-8p)

Allied Colloids n/p

Old English Pub .....

Rolfe & Nolan

Sage Gp

FALLS

GUS .

Azian n/p (620)

enova eoman Group	1594 = 2	tumn, the Amec share price was ahead of the £1 or so the
RIGHTS	SSUES	1 1 4 4 4
ilied Colloids n/p .ukett n/p (5) .zian n/p (620) .iocompatibles n/	I42	which explains yesterday
MAJOR C	ANGES	muted reaction to the Spi Batignolles deal.

Amec

This is a merger in all but name, Amec having the right both to buy any loose shares from Spie employees and to purchase the rest outright at a price set by independent valuers at the end of 2002. Mergers between builders - the enhancing of margins by losing overlapping workoffices — but not in this case. This is, at heart, a way of in-

ialist expertise into Spie's operations. The merged business will have turnover approaching £5 billion and profits in the range of £40 million to £50 million, to go on City estimates and a forecast to employees from Spie. The minority stake will have to be equity-accounted by Amec, and, on the City's numbers, it represents a 25 per cent earnings enhance-ment in the first full year. It also represents a sensible way forward for a contractor too reliant on the difficult British market. However, two doubts remain. French-British mergers have a poor record - and that Kvaerner

stake is still there.

Meconic MECONIC is the country's only legal supplier of controlled drugs such as cocaine, methadone and a variety of poses. The company has been able to grow rapidly in the jecting Amec's areas of spec- past few years as painkillers

electricity regulator, who, only a few weeks earlier, had supposedly delivered a review to Admittedly the sweetie store was suffering a little after such an enormous raid to fend off clamp down on power prices. Northern's Trafalgar. But Northern still managed a delivery of £550 million of goodies forced the package that lifted the dividend by 17 per cent and promised a yield of 10 per cent. Northern's scorched earth defence made its garden look potentially so unattractive that

fresh delights to serve up to investors.

CalEnergy has mounted its takeover on a ticket of cash now, rather than promises later. Many investors have been torn until the last minute on this offer. The extension of the announcement until midnight was a clear sign that things were close. Northern has relied heavily on projections, but no one can fault it

what it considered a reasonable and afford-

Northern said that the overtures were too

cheap. CE Electric upped the price, but Northern fought on, raiding its cupboards for

able price, it weighed in with a bid.

THE HALL

for it ability to produce shareholder benefits. enough to digest the unfortu-

THE chart tells the story of the Hanson conglomera from its first listing to the recent series of demers It also explains why Lord

NORTHERN'S battles for independence

have been spirited. Its defence against

Trafalgar House brought shareholder re-

Certainly they were surprising for the

another suitor seemed unlikely. At the height

of the takeover sweeps that have gripped the

industry. Northern has continually seemed

But then came CE Electric, led by

CalEnergy, a company for which high debt

levels were not necessarily fearsome. Offering

turns in surprising abundance.

regulator to redo his sums.

the wallflower.

Hanson

were for almost the entire duration of the chart excited the prospects of the next Hanson once again this big deal. Market excitement week railed against the market for undervalging Hanusually raised the price earnings ratio of Hanson to a son and the already demerged US Industries, Imperial Tobacco and Millennium Chemicals. The Energy. Group, consisting of Peabody, the US coal group,

and Eastern, the British electricity company, is to be demerged in early 1997. Expect details soon. In January the sum of the when Lord Hanson did his calculations on December 2

for the annual report he reckoned the figure stood at 150p.

There are a variety of

explanations, such as the

FOR a company that has

built a fair few of them.

Kvaerner would seem to

have missed the boat on

uncertain regulatory outlook nate prey.

Excitement also followed a for electricity and continuing difficult conditions in the

Hanson deal as the market building industry. gasped at the prices Hanson Hanson shares, however. obtained for breaking up the unwanted bits of its target. But without the deals there is no excitement and without the excitement the rating has dived. A sad end to a once

exciting company. level at which it was easy

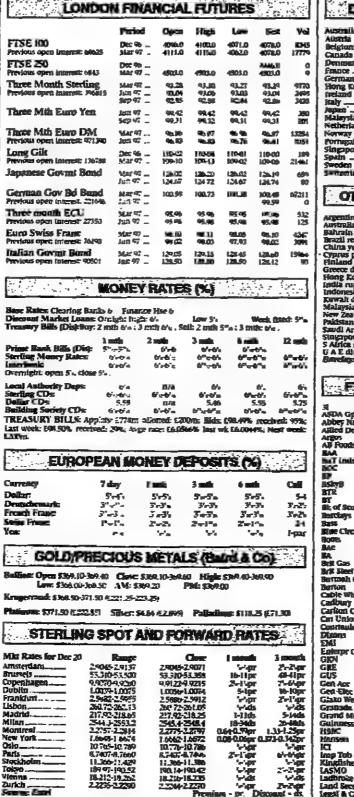
such as codeine have become increasingly available over the counter. This buoyancy has enabled Meconic to ride a decline in opiate product margins resulting from a poor poppy harvest. The company is all too aware that its monopoly supplier position is a privilege and decided that interests are better served by swallowing some of the short-term costs of a raw material price rise. Meconic has also diversi-

fied, adding Phoenix, which provides contract chemicals to drug companies. Phoenix has also given Meconic access to vital markets, such as the US, from which the company was previously excluded by international regulations on exports of controlled drugs.

The company's success and good growth prospects have been fully recognised, with the shares now nearly £2 above their 1995 float pricing habit will probably want to

#### COMMODITIES GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES COCOA 865-855 Mar ... 908-907 May ... 908-905 Jul ... 913-942 Sep ... 959-518 970-969 PRODUCTS 6/MT) ROBUSTA COFFEE OF POTATO (E/S 129-1290 Sep ..... 1225-1230 1253-1230 Nov ..... 1230-1210 1215-1210 Jun ..... 1250-1200 Volume: 4830 WHITE SUGALL (FOR IPE PUTURES (CNI LIQ Jan ..... 215.00-15.25 Apr., 199,25-09.50 Feb ..... 213.50-14.00 May 193,25-93.90 Mar .... 207.50-05.00 Vol; 21314 ERLENT (A.Object) Average Lassock prices at representative

Part   Sheep   College	markets on December 19	Apr 22.49 BLD Vol: (7810	truden (SSS n/c
College   Coll	(p/kg lw) Pig Sheep Carrie	·	
Compare Cale A Greenand		(Official) (Volume urey day) LONDON	METAL EXCHANGE Rudoff Walff
College			
First			
Series   S			
Service   June   Age   June   June   Age		Tin Grangel 57000	
Columbia   Colimbia		Aluminium Hi Gde (\$/top.net 1907.0-	1507.5 1540.0-1541.0 148UZZS
Service Jun Apr   Jol   Jun Apr   Jul	(%)		995.0 6700 0-b701 0 57444
Service Jan Ager Jed Jan			
Service Jan Ager Jed Jan			
Service Jan Ager Jed Jan		LIERE ODDIONIC	The state of the s
Series   San Age   Jol   Jan		DITEOFICES	
Series Jun Apr Jul Jun Jul			
All Doom. 420 147 30 34 6 14 12 (2015) 5 30 40 1 12 147 5 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 1			
Control		Series Jan Apr Jal Jan Apr Jal	Series Apr. Jul. Oct Apr. Jul. Oct
Control   Cont		Was 400 771 are 400 to 01 14	Abbr Nat., 700 66 77 847 20 29 35
CHIST 1 39 2 9 16 6 9 17 17 17 18 18 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 19 18 19 18 17 18 19 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18			
No.   No.   No.   1   27   70   1   29   12   13   13   13   13   13   13   13			
Part			
Series   Feb May Ang   Feb M			
Property   600   670   671   672   673   674		Series Schiller Ann Schiller Ann	
BT		The state of the s	
Post   10	BP 050 No. 10: 72 2 14': 20	BTR 260 181, 21 27 15 10 13	1 THE SALES AND 35 401 517
Figure   190   17   4   6   17   18   28   29   29   29   20   20   20   20   20	Photos 700 13 3ft 435 17 345 41		Series Jan Apr Jel Jan Apr Jel
Color   Colo		Br Aero 1150 BIV 104', 125 13', 30', 34',	C1
Principle   SQ   S   S   S   S   S   S   S   S			
Cathenry 60 47 60 69 77 22 59 49 77 67 78 78 78 78 78 78 78 78 78 78 78 78 78			
Callings   Store   S	PG84 90 5 19 29 25: 37: 42		
Color			
CFT72			
Tamb Sec			
19   19   19   19   11   18   19   19			
M. S.   460   17   31   37   4   11   11   11   11   12   1   12   13   13			P. L. mans . a. mans .
Principal   190   19   12   17   17   18   13   18   17			SCHOL POINTS) AND HONEY AND
Nat West _ 680 34', 47' 98 5 26 38', 31', 190 190 20' 30' 31', 39', 8 11', 190 190 20' 30' 31', 39', 8 11', 190 190 20' 30' 31', 39', 8 11', 190 190 20' 30' 31', 39', 8 11', 190 190 20' 30' 31', 39', 8 11', 190 190 20' 30', 31', 39', 8 11', 190 190 20' 30', 31', 39', 8 11', 190 190 20' 30', 31', 31', 31', 31', 31', 31', 31', 31			Ship Circ., 360 to 23 27, 47, 19, 21
Printly   707	Nat West 650 345 47 98 5 26 305		
Part			F : Wide A Block
Salmbury 360 27 39., 41 1 47; 21 7 21 1 1 3 5 5 (7611 663 10 19 25 407; 57), 62 (7593) 300 6 18; 237; 10 18 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31 31	Safeway pic 340 237 - 331: 39: 🛊 111, 191	LucasVarity 220 18 25 39 45 8 13	SCHOOL HOWAY AND HOLY AND
Control   Cont			
Section   Sect			(*611) 650 10 19 25 435 57°, 62°
Fractional   100   16   42   49   19   42   52		("154") [60] 5': 10 12': 8' 11', 14	Series Mar Jan Mar Jan
Final line   200 27 91 67 17   Set 451   Final line   201 37 37 49 91 67 17   Set 451   Final line   201 37 45 67 18   Final line   201 37 45 67 18   Final line   201 48   Fi			
Second   S			
Sometime   300   3   3   3   4   4   5   5   5   5   5   5   5   5	MININE MAN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND A		
Cutag   370   Cast   200 Vi   16   20   Vi   16		1994	
Traininger 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9			
200   20   0   0   0   0   0   0   0			
Zenera 1600 62, 107 139 22; co 0 107, 114; 1297 1201 19 59; 91 79 114; 1297 1201 19 59; 91 79 114; 1297 1201 19 59; 91 79 114; 1297 1201 19 59; 91 70 129; 92 70 70 114; 1297 1201 1201 120 71 1201 1201 1201 1201 1			
Pie323   1700   19   594   91   79   114   130   141   130   170			
Series Jan Apr Int			
BAT   Ind	110100	ining and	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Part   160		FTSE INDEX (MOTH	
Voidatione 280 127 217 297 4 87 137   Callis 200 47 107 117 117 119 217   Callis 200 47 107 117 117 119 217   Callis 200 47 107 117 117 117 117 117 117 117 117 11			
Collis   C		7050 4000 4050 4100 4150 4200 1	
Series FebMay Ang FebMas Ang Fe	The state of the s	N.B.	
Series Feb Mary Ang Feb Mary An	12.0		
Drud Met 420 37 43 50 4 10	Series FebMay Ang FebMay Ang		
PANN 460 9, 307, 28 22 28 327, 18 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	Ermd Mrs. 420 37 43 50 4 10 14	Man 140 40. CL 27 151 1.	
Ladbroke 220 to 37; 24 7. 8; 11   Sun   133 to 155 to 160   Sun   160 to 1720   Sun	PASS 460 9. 20% 28 22 28 32%		Them Fift 19m
P230*)	Laditorsice 220 to 20% 24 %. No 11		(uniqu 1600 — — — — —
Und Size 200 (6 207 22 3 8. 107)   Disc	("230":) 240 b's 11 14's 13 20 215		Tounities 240 23 254 327 55 75 12
Part 200 220 6 107, 14 13 197, 217 340 157, 25 407, 83 94 1331, 10962 758 420 26 27 407, 83 94 1331, 10962 758 420 26 27 407, 83 94 1331, 10962 758 420 26 27 40 97, 177, 297, 41 437, 497, 497, 497, 497, 497, 497, 497, 49	Und 88sc 200 (6 20% 21 3 8. 10%		(*257) 260 II 17; 2Ps 13; 36 22
December 20, 1996 Test 94621 Calli-64002 Res 197, 47 65 87; 112; 1467 CALT: 1 400 8; 177, 29; 41 49; 49; 49; 49; 49; 49; 49; 49; 49; 49;	(*210) <u>220 6 10% 14 13 19% 21%</u>		Liop 2: 756 420 26 25 40, 16 21, 264
Fig. 2012 First Call 1902 Fig. 6779 Hear 61 77. 91 114 149 172 17349 25 11 - 91 - 21			(*C/2*) 400 St. (7), 27), 41 45, 49;
100 100 170 170 170 170 170 170 170 170	Put Thirt CTSE COR 19801 Page 6779	Mar 61 777, 91 114 1475 1774	
and the second of the second o		June - 1000 - 159 - 2000 1	100 H 21



DOLLAR RATES			
1.2565-1.2573 thi10.95-10.96	Dec 20 Dec 19 standay close	Day 20 Day 19 midday class	Dec 30 Dec 15
tia 10.95-10.96 som (Com) 32.06-32.07 da 1.3679-1.3684	ASSET LUC 305 36	Sestone Rodak #15 80:	
DEFE 5.9545-5.9585 I	AMX Corp 87, 87 ASA 34, 36, AT 8 T 39, 39, Alaboro Labs 53, 52,	Eaton Corp 10 ast, Edison Inc. 30 194	Oncie 42 45
5.2527-5.2602 14019 1.5599-1.5566	AT & T 3Ph 3Ph Abbout labs 53h 52h	Elect Data Sys 44', 45', Emersion Elect 90', 90',	Overseas Ship 16% 16% Overs Coming 40% 40%
Know   7,7365-7,7375   1,6555-1,6565   1529-25-1529,75   114,12-114,22	PROPERTY SELECT AND ADDRESS.	Eagelbard Corp 194 194	PHH Comp 42h 42h PPC Industries 5th 59h Back Bank 3th 3th
[.6595-1.6595	Actors tille 75° 75°. Alemanson (HF) 22°. 32°.	AMURICUITY 49 4Th	PPAL Res 234 23
ysia 114.12-114.22 ysia 25257-2.5267	Actura Lile 29, 75% Alexandro (M7) 25, 12% Alexandro (M7) 25, 12% Alexandro (M7) 26, 12% Alexandro (M7) 27, 12% Al	Extent Compa 9 9%	OUTS Energy Co 233 275 OVERSES Ship in 164 OVERSE COMING 404 405 OVERSES Ship in 164 OVERSE COMING 405 OVERSES Ship in 164 OVE
triands 1,7453-1.7473	Alberto-Caiver 8 48% 48% Albertson's 3% 39%	Fried Corp 725 725 725 725 725 725 725 725 725 725	Pac Controvelan 30 3%
REAL	Aftertion's 36 39, Alcan Alument 34, 34 Alco Standard 50, 40,	Pederal Express 45, 45,	Pac Entryvies 30 3%; Fac Ses 8 Blees 20, 21 Pac Ses 9 Blees 39, 39 Pac Corp 27, 39, 39 Packer Hambles 36, 36, Pace Energy 36, 36, Pace Energy 46, 34, Pace Energy 46, 36, Pace Energy 46, 36, 36, 36, 36, 36, 36, 36, 36, 36, 3
pore	Alco Standard 50% 40% Altred Stand 60% 60% Alum Co of 40% 63% 63%	First Bit Sys 715 605	Parker Harralta 38's 36's
1 131 07-131.20 en 6.8279-6.8354	Altern Co of ARR 634 654	ווב רבב שנטומה או	Penney (IC) 49- 49
miani 1.3360-1.3370	Affect Brands 46° 46°	Ruor Corp 625 627; Ferri Moure 315 315	Pennanti III. Se'i Pepsico 29. 39.
And the Party of t	Affer Express 995 905	Garmen 75 73	Pepsico 29 29 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19
OTHER STERLING	After Gent Carp 404, 40 After Home Pr 404, 594	Gap Inc Dal 31's 30's Gencorp 17's 17's	Philip Hours 114 1134 Philip Month 114 1134 Philips Per 415, 424
tina peso" 1.6635-1.6665	Amer Intil 1114 1006 Amer Stocks 425 404	Gen Dynamics 71 714	PRODUCES FOR NO. 425
Sika rinilari 2.70.12.7 none	Amer Standing 37, 3%, Americch 57, 36,	Gen Mills 60's 65's Gen Maters 56's 54's	Patery Money 18th Sin Palamid 42 4th
in dinar	Amoro 614 804 Anheoser-Busels 624 625	Gen Motors SF. 54', Gen Refresspille 157 1974 Gen Signal 42', 42	Pricece a Grant 100, 100
s pound 13.656-13.956	Anheuser-Busels 42% 42% Apple Companier 22% 22% Archer Daniels 32% 22%	GERMON Partil 44% 44%	Prioritismo 24, 249 Process & Grand 109, 109 Providism 525 529 Pub Serv E & G 279 Uni
nd markka	Arracio 4'2 4'3 Arracion del 70'1 96'4		Raiston Putina 741. 744
t drachma 409.0-416.0 Kong dollar 12.8749-12.8876	ASN/00 29, 20,	Guodinch (SF) 40% 40%	Englass Circ III III
rupee 59.10-60.05 nesia rupiah 3998.0-3966.0	Addo Data Pro 13. 425	Goodyear Tire \$1 374. Gr All Par Tex 379. XP. Grear With Fin 294, 294.	Region's tests and all
ilidirər (17) 0.4945-n enut [	Antic Data Pro Altery Denudical Pro Altery Denudical Pro Alter Products Sin Sin Black Huges 36 M/	Great Wister Fire 294, 294, Halliberton 614 614	Exympto Associa 57\ 57\ Exclosed int 64 64 Ream & Hans III 614
rsia ringgit	Marianta Comp & Dr. 1994 304 304	Hartour General 475 476 Heinz (HLI) 36 361	Marchine Charles (727- 177)
Arabia riyal 66.30 Buy	BankAmerica 1015 mm.	Hershey Foods 40, 40,	SMC Comments Till 45%
pore dollar 2.3277-2.3307 ca rand (com) 7,7490-7,8510	Bankers Tr ety 80% 80%	Hewlett Federal Str. 52	El Pazzi's Cos 50°, 50°,
41-4	Secret Single 41's 40's Secret 6 Londo 36's 35's		Statement Inc. 45. 49.
lays Bank GTS * Lingt: Bank	Boom Oprimer 475 415	Isomeywell 67°, 67°,	Schering Plough 67 up. Schlumberger 105, 101
C	Bell Admirate GS 61's	Household Lad 9/1, 107, Household Lad 27, 27, Human 19, 20	Seagran 40's JP1
FTSE YOLUMES	BACK A There III. 20	TTT COTTO 43% 42%	Streemin Milms CE: Got
983 Libyrds TSB K0,300		Illinois Total 80°, 78°, 18°, 18°, 18°, 18°, 18°, 18°, 18°, 1	Sigline Corp M' 24', Sisp-On-Tools 37' 36', Marie Co 27', H'.
Go 8,900 LucasVarity 3 900	Britis Committee 100 No. 1	14 44 AV	Sprint Corp 33's 38's
No. 4,400 Marks Spr 7,200 Dom 1,600 NatWat 6k 4,700	British Myrs Se 110 100.	DREE COMP 1361 1371	Barton Sorts 27, 27,
796 Nat Grid 6,800 ods 4,000 Nat Potter 2,700	Statilingson Heim Er. By.	HIM PART OF THE SAME OF	Sun Microrys 304 304 Sun Microrys 304 304 Bettlerast 514 90
1/AT Next 4,195	CNA Pirractor 107- 107- CPC 1001 264 76	James Elver Va. 17. 19	Limitals 25. 17.
2,000 Orange 1,700 2,000 P&O 3,100	CSX 471 494	Dinent & Drove the con	System Corp 34% 13% TRW Inc 44% 48%
11.100 Pearson 2.400	Campbell Soap 80% 80% Can Pacific 26% 26% Datellass Per 36% 38%	MITMARCES 72 714	TCC Inds IV 14 These Corp 17 175 These Corp 44 435
16.000 PowerGen 2.700	Can Pacific 26, 26, 26, 26, 27, 27, 27, 27, 27, 27, 27, 27, 27, 27	Kmari 19, 10, 10, Knight-Ridder 19, 10,	Temple Inland 57's SP
19,300 Prudential 6,800 Seat 4,900 RMC 547	Compiler 75, 75 Omiral & SW 28, 25, Clampon int 42, 43	CANY (EII) 77 79	Tempers 44', MV. Tempers 97 98'.
95 4,800 RTZ 3,400	Chase Manhar 414, 48s.	reserved 100 100 100	Tesas Unitines 40, 40,
1,600 Ralkrack 5,000   Srcie 2,600 Rank Group 2,300	Conster III. 11.	Litton 45 45 Litz Cialburne 37 37	Textron, 91%
2900 Reckitt Col 1,200 4,000 Rediand 2,200	Claster Corp 135', 35', Clema Corp 135', 135',	Lockherd Martin W. Rr. Lockston Par 21', 21',	Tunes-Militor A 57's 53
2.700 Reed Intl 1 4701	Chicago 100's 100's Courts 90% est.	AND CORRECT TO THE PERSON NAMED IN	Torchmark 97, 51
as 17,600 Remotal Ini 1,900 leel 18,400 Reuters 4,800	Committee 40. 45.	MAING OF METHER LESS 1052	Transamerica III 80
th Carl 1,000 Rolls Royce 6,600	COCH COLL ESS 45 45		Travelers III 44's
Wire 6,000 Royal & Sc 2,600	Columbia Com ser- all-	MINTER COTTO (FF. 10%) MCDOSSION 45%, 45% MCDOSSION 45%, 45%	1700 lat 57, 53
Wire 6,000 Royal Bt, Sci 2,600 Ry 3,400 Saleway 3,500 ri Cros 1,300 Salesbury 7,300	Conspan Comp 774 285		UAL 60% 59%
nion 1,400 Schroders 484	Cornegua 51 504	MERC COIP 57' 56'	125 West Commo JII. 314
s 3.800 Scot & New 2,300	Control 100 1005	PART NO. 17	USX Marathon 244 264
2.500 Sim Trest 1,500 }	COMP NOT COMP SEV. 2007.	Meste Lynch ICA IC	Underer NY 177, 168. Union Camp 47: 48.
4,600 Shell Trans 6,400   4,100 Skete 1,800	Contestants 52% 52%	Microsoft Man 87	Union Carbide 40's 37's
5.300 Sm/Ki Bck 5.300	Corrections (Code 12 Str.		Union Pacific 60, 59. Union Corp 7 7
4,900 Smith Nob 11,600 i or 2,400 Smith Inds 2,900	Deta Cop 31's 31's Daylon Hudson 32's 35's	47 Q	USPAC COOP 201 201
to 4,800 Std Chartd 5,200	Detre . 47. 49	Nati Settil 25: 25	US Life 31% 72%
du 1,300 Tate & laie 2,300	Delta Air Lines 72% 72% Delta Chep 31% 31% Delta Espeig 30% 30%	Newtonar Ire OL Co.	Unocal Corp 40's 40 VF Corp 65's 65's
Met 4,700 Testa 6,600 ess 3,300 Thames W 1,900	DHUMBED DROK SE 30% 30%	NY Times A 30 30	WMCK Tech 34' 34'.
3,300 Tomkins, 4,700	DIRECT TO TO	Mag Mohawk 94 95	Warner-Lumbert 774 771
11,500 Uniterer 1,700 2,200 Utd Utiligies 1,400	Describer With 10% 10% 10%	Morrow Esterna	Wells Fargo III 1764 Westinghouse El 174 176
00 4.300 Utd News 1,600	now Committee 741. 391.	Noteston: 30, 30	Writings 46, 46
sher 2,600 Vodalone 11,700 5000 Whithread 2,100	Diener 31, 12	Norfolk State Per 45: 40	Whitman 255 23

	manday cone	midday close	1
	AMER Unit AMER Comp EPA ST AMER ST EPA ST AMER ST EPA ST EP	Sestmen Radak 81's 40's	Oracle
	AME Corp 201. 27  AME Corp 201. 27  AME AT 8 T	Sistemed Redait #115 00 billion Corp	Otyx Energy Overseas Ship
	Abbox labs 53's 52's	Elect Data Sys 44% 45% Emecanon Elect 90%, 90%	PHH Date
•	Abbott labs \$1\ 92\ Advanced billiere 28\ 28\ Actua Lile 78\ 75\	Engeland Corp 191 104. Euron Corp 44 475. Energy 274 274 Edwi Corp 9 94	PHH Corp PPG Industri
	Alemanson (HP) 32% 32% Air Frod a Coden 60% 60%	Smergy 274 274	FFAL Res
	AirTouch Comm Mr. 24	1005 995	Pacificano
	ADDITIONS IN THE	FMC Corp 725 725 FFL Group 445 445	Pacificato Pac Estayyele Pac Ger 1 Bi Pac Toloro
	Alco Standard 50% 34	Petieral Express 435, 425, Fed Nat Money 100, 100,	Part Totals
	Alforeco Cormett 264 264 Alberto-Criver B 464 464 Alberto-Criver B 464 464 Alberto-Criver B 365 39- Alcon Alumenta 367, 462 Allon Standard 507, 462 Allon Standard 507, 462 Allon Cof 488 458 Almor Cof 488 458 Al	Potenti Express 49- 47- Fed Nat Ringe 39- 39- First Bk 5yr 71- 69- First Union Rity 111- Fiest Fini Gra 52- 51-	Pair Tutters Pair Corp Parker Hartal Pair Energy Penney (C) Penney
	Alers Gold Inc 64 64	Fleet First Cap Sth Sil	Penney (10)
	Affect Brands 40° 40°	Ruor Corp 625 627 Fami Moure 315 315 GTE Corp 435 425 Gargeer 76 75	Pennadi Pensico
ı	After Express 955 505 After Gent Carp 405 40	GRE Corp 43 421	Phone & Uni
ļ	Amer Gent Carp 404 40 Amer Home Pr 404 594	Garner 79 75. Gay Inc Dal 341 204 Genoury 17. 17. Gen Dynamics 21 734 Gen Electric 107. 107.	Placing Finder
	Amer Home Pr 40's Rv. Amer Indi III's 100's Amer Stores 42's 40's Amer Standard 37's 38's	Gen Dynamics 71 774	PidUles Per
1	Aster Standard 37, 39,	Gen Mills 80% 85%	plantid
١	AZROCO CIL NO.	Gen Betrempher 157 1574	PriorComes Procter & City
ı	Apple Company 22, 22,	Gen Signal 42. 43 Genuine Paral 46. 44.	Providita
1	Artico 6: 45	Georgia Par 104 11	Cheshen Chaps
ł	ASSURE 25, 25,	Global Wells ADR 315 315	Dydes On
ı	AND DATE PER NO. 425	Gen Sterne 127, 102- Gen Manuel 557, 102- Gen Manuel 557, 102- Gen Manuel 557, 102- Gen Signal 42- Gen Signal 42- Genus Sternessinte 12- Genus Weile ADR 14- Genus Weile ADR 14- Great Weile 12- Genus Weile 12- Gen	Berink inti
ı	Attry Denutions 75's 60's	Great Wisty Flat 294 294	Buckwell toti
ı	Maint Huges N M	Halliberton 614 614 Harcourt General 675 67	BOOM DOWN
ı	Blac Other 15 DV 304	Heinz (HLI) 36 351 Hercules 431 425	Rubbermald
1	BankAmerica 101's 100% Bank of NY 35's 34's	Harcount Georgial 45% 45% Heiste Rich 25% Hershey Floods 46% 45% Hershey Floods 46% 45% Hershey Floods 46% 45% Hershey Floods 45% 52% Hillion Horels 55% 52% Household logd 11% 45% Household logd 11% 45% Humann 19% 207 Humann 19% 207	Palastid Priorcomo process a Consultation Providence Providence Providence Consultation Parks Serve &
1	Bankers Tr ACY 80% 89% Bankers Tr ACY 80% 80% 80%	History Hotels 264 364	Salamen Inc
J	Sweet & Louis Mr. 354.	Homestake Mag 14 14	Stra Lee Corp
1	Botto Dickeron 43- 43-	Household test 914, up.	Schlumberger Seagram
ŀ	Mil Indiagrae IIA 27	Hermage 195 20	Sears Roebuck Real Tours Sherwin Wilm
١	Red & Decker 37. 37.	ITT Curp 43', 42',	I SKATING CIND
ł	gostof 104" 509"	Romestate Mag 14   16   16   16   16   17   17   17   17	Sump-On-Tools
ł	Bristol Myrs Se   18   1994	Internal Cont 49, 44, Initial Cont 10, 19,	
1	Amer Joels Amer Stores Amer St	Illiands Total   80, 75, 180, 180, 180, 180, 180, 180, 180, 180	9un Company
1	CAS Energy Caro 15. 25.	18M 159, 159, 159, 150, 150, 150, 150, 150, 150, 150, 150	Sun Microrys Destinant
ŀ	CNA Financial 107-107-	Indian River vs. 17, 37, June & June 39, 49,	Syster Corp TRW Inc
1	CSX 47 45	James River vs. 37, 37, Junes & Junes & Junes 30, 50, 50, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 1	TRW Inc
ı	Campbell Step 80, 80, 20, Can Pacific 26, 26, 26,	Kimberty-Clark 97, 96	Therape Cont.
١	Campbell Step 80, 80; 20; Cam Pacific 26, 26, 26, 26, 26, 26, 26, 26, 26, 26,		TCC Indx
ı	Chatral & SW 25th 25th	Enight-Ridder 39, 39, 125, 124ly (EID 77 79) United Inc 18, 185	Termeco Texaso Tesas Inst
1	Cheve Mankar 411 45. Chevron Corp 664 457. Chrysler 37, 17, 17, 17, 17, 17, 17, 17, 17, 17, 1	Lincoln Nat 537, 527	Term int Texas Uddices
ı	Carytier II, II.	Litton Liz Claiborne 37, 39, Lackherd Maria 37, 27,	Textron Time Warner
١	Claritie Comp 135', 135', Chicorp 100', 100', 100',	Lockherd Martin W. R., Lockhiana Pac 21', 21',	Tunca-Militor #
ł	Curtos 104, 104,	MCI Comen 32 32	Timken Torchmerk
ŀ	Clean Corp 135', 135', Chicago 100',	MALTORIAN IZ- IX- Martine let IX- IX- Martine let IX- IX- March & Michael IX- March Corp IX- March Corp IX- Martine Carp Michael IX- Micha	Torchmark Toys R Us Transamerica
I	CARD COLE EM 45 65%	May Dept St 47's 46's	Travelers
١	Corp Cols East 45 45%, Colsate-Palandine 42 41%, Colsate-Palandine 42 41%, Colsate-Palandine 44%, 47%, Colsate-Palandine 44%, 47%,	May Dent St. 671 664 May Dent St. 671 664 May Dent St. 671 674 May Dent	Tributes Type 12st UST Inc UAL LIS thus LIS wen Comm LISX Magariton United
ł	Controller Comp 174 185	McDonnall D 64 65".	UAL
ł	Company 5 50.	Mead Corp 57's Sel-	15 we com
I	CONTROL 100 1002	Medicols 67 67 17	USX Marathon
ł	COME NOT GOT 574 359.		
1	Confession 18th 18th 30 Confession 53% 52%	Menta Lynca ICA 824 Microsoft 875 846 Microsoft Mac 434 875	Union Camp Union Carbide Union Pacific
I	CONTINUE DAY ATT. ATT.	Mobili Corp 129. 124 Mossants 37. 37.	Union Pacific Unisys Corp
Ì	Deta Com 31's 31's	Months inc 37, 57, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10	USAIR Group
I	Detre 42, 42	Motoroia Inc 37 57 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	USFACE COOP US Life
1	Design For Little 1 (2)	Marie Complete Sand San	United Tech
I	Digital Experience 30%, 30%, 30%, 30%, 30%, 30%, 30%, 30%,	Nevistar ire 94 95 NY Three A 39 30 Nevisions Mag 46 44	WACK Tech
I	Dissery (West) Z2n Z2n Commission Res Jan 32n	Ning Mohawk 95 95	Wal-Mary Stone
I	CONTRACTOR IN THE I	Wil bertranen Bill 604	Gially Commo
I	DOVET COMP 497. 30	Morain Energy 15, 17,	Westinghouse is Wryerhaeuser Whiripnol
1	Data Joseph 24, 35, 15 Charles Annual 25, 46, 46, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15, 15	Moram Energy 15% 15% Nordolk Start 27% Nordolk S	TABLETTARY
ł	Dieter 31's 32 Date Poser 40's 40's Data & Brüstger 31 23's	Norfolk Schen de au. Filher State Perr 45', 45 Marwest Corp 49', 45	Winn Dixle Woolward
I	De sent All All	Considerated Feet 21 1-	Wrighty (Witt) I
1		Oble Edition 22. 22.	Yellow Corp



#### **PENSIONS 27**

Don't miss the bus in the retirement race

# WEEKEND

#### **CREDIT CARDS 28**

How to avoid the costly debt hangover



## SEPERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

## New year greetings for the Halifax savers

Anne Ashworth and Caroline

Merrell report on the latest

moves by building societies on

the rocky road to conversion

and savers this week leared for their new year windfalls, after the announcement that the Woolwich had joined the militant Alliance & Leicester in the struggle to amend the Building

Both societies oppose the proposal to remove the fiveear takeover protective ring that currently encircles any society launching itself on the mock market.

This shield against predators will be lost if the society itself becomes an aggressor. So strong were the objections of the Alliance & Leicester to this provision that it threatened last month to postpone its conversion which will spread £1,000 average payouts among

The Woolwich said this week ing societies would not be safeguarded, it would have taken a longer route to conversion, making takeovers before its market debut.

Woolwich and A&L members' should not despair because both societies are proceeding, as before, towards conversion and it seems that neither will abandon its plans purely because they may be left vulnerable to aggressors.

 $\zeta_{p,n} \subset \zeta_{p+1} = \lambda_p \stackrel{\operatorname{den}(p)}{\longrightarrow} \zeta_{p+1} \stackrel{\operatorname{den}(p)}{\longrightarrow}$ 

There have been rumours that the A&L was rethinking its April stock market launch as it was likely to coincide with a. general election. But as the membership has voted in fayour of conversion the process must go ahead.

Savers and borrowers with Halifax and Northern Rock, the two other societies floating next year, need have no trepidation. Halifax members can look forward to getting the full details of their share payout within weeks, more than two years after the float was an-

This week the Halifax revealed that the cost of merging with the Leeds and becoming a bank would be some £413 million, with some £153 million of this being spent on communicating with members. The distribution of voting packs being sent to mine million qualifying members early next month will by itself set the society back to the tune of £10 million to £20 million.

Mail lorries will Those who love a statistic will be interested to learn that if the pages of all the documents were laid side by side they would cover 160,000 miles five times the circumference of the world.

will have a similar market capitalisation to Prudential, HSBC, GEC and BTR. Halifax shares should be much sought after, especially as it will join the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares. But it became clear this week that Halifax members

ready waived its right to pro-tection, partly because it wishes to pursue takeovers, while the Northern Rock says that it has no intentions of bidding for anyone.

The aim of this operation is to ensure that members cast their votes for or against the conversion. The result of the poli will be known at the special general meeting to be held in February. The society expects to be a quoted company and a bank by June. When floated the Halifax

killing on their shares could be disappointed if a proposal to delay the its fast-track entry

into the index goes ahead.

The FT-SE Actuaries UK Indices Committee, which compiles the FT-SE 100 and FT-SE all-share indices, is concerned that the Halifax is not making any of the £10 billion of shares it is issuing available to institutional investors in the City. It says fund managers will be forced to scrabble after the few shares sold immediately by Halifax members. The committee believes that the shares could become overvalued, causing a distortion in the market and is proposing a two or three-week delay to enable the City to buy the shares in a more orderly

This could depress prices for

**WEEKEND MONEY** is edited by Anne Ashworth



INVESTORS OFFERED CASH OR UNITS

N early all the 90,000 investors in the three trusts suspended by Morgan Grenfell at the end of August will get some form of compensation for the losses caused by the irregularities in the funds.

Anyone with investments in the Morgan Grenfell European Growth trust, the Europa fund and the European Capital Growth fund between August 1, 1995, and September 5, 1996, will be offered compensation in cash or extra units. It is expected that it will be paid by April. Investors will also receive 6 per cent interest, dating from September 5, 1995.

The three funds were suspended because they had breached the regulatory limits on unaunted companies.

The level of compensation will be set in relation to a special European Index of funds constructed by Micropal, the fund performance company. Unfortunately, Morgan Grenfell had failed to alert the

company yesterday that it was releasing details of the compensation package — so the data on the index was not available.

However, similar data from another company, HSW, could give a guide to the level of compensation. For instance, £1,000 invested in the Morgan Grenfell Europe Growth trust at August I, 1995, would have been worth £958 on September 5, 1996, a fall of 4.19 per cent. An index of European companies moved up 12 per cent over that period. An investor would, therefore, get about £162 for every £1,000 invested.

The thousands of investors who put their personal equity plan money into this fund at the end of the tax year will get even more compensation. A full £6,000 invested on March 15 would have been worth £4.800 at September 5 — a fall of 20 per cent. The index moved up by about 1 per cent over that period, so investors could get around

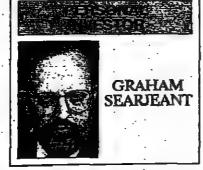
## Good value beats a bargain

The easiest investment opportuni-ty of 1996 was to have the right deposit in the right building society at the right time. In the long run, however, investing is no more about collecting windfalls than tax policy should be. One useful lesson of 1996 is that even beating pretty average sort of averages is not so easy.

Over the past 12 months, the FT-SE 100 index of leading UK shares has risen about 13 per cent. With added dividends of 4 per cent, that gave a better return than most analysts expected a year ago and better than the average annual return looked for by pension fund actuaries. But virtually all the gains came between July and October as it became clear that the British economy was belatedly picking up again and that world interest rates would not push ours higher.

Within the overall average, there were the usual winners and losers. This year banks boomed, brewers drooped and gold mines lost all their early rises as inflation stayed at bay. Investors who tracked the London share market average should be content. Seemingly brighter prospects disappointed.

Government gilt-edged stocks have fallen a touch over 12 months, so earning twice as much income did not compensate. But the second half was stronger, in line with sterling. If you put your money in overseas markets, however, the improving pound spoilt re-turns in terms of what they will buy at home. That is a snag more familar to Japanese investors than British, who are used to currency gains overseas.



Partly as a result, the average investment trust had a relatively poor year. To the surprise of many non-American sceptics, the Dow Jones industrial average has risen by more than a quarter, twice as fast as the FT-SE 100. In essence, the American economy and big companies continued to grow healthily yet avoided rising short-term interest rates. The sceptics were proved wrong and, although some sharp cor-rection is still likely after two gung-ho years of rising share prices, predictions of a crash begin to look like sour grapes.

Measured in end-1996 sterling, however, those who missed Wall Street's latest rise missed nothing. Returns are a shade less than an index-tracking UK fund should have achieved. Much the same applies to continental investment, even for those not entangled in the Morgan Grenfell mess. Sterling investors would, on average, have lost a fifth. of their money in Japanese shares and even buoyant Hong Kong did not beat

markets had a poor year, in part because US investors preferred Wall Street. Even Templeton Emerging Markets trust, a long-term global winner, could not match the FT-SE 100.

straight away.

Many UK private investors will look enviously at the average too. Several of the 100 shares that make up that index were real dogs in 1996. Even worse, most of these were among the most popular shares. For instance, British Gas, the second most widely held company in Britain, lost 30 per cent of its stock market value.

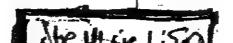
any of us were buying the wrong new investments too.

A list of the ten most popular share purchases by private investors through Fidelity Brokerage Services last year makes a good case for switching to unit trusts. It included four notable 1996 losers: Hanson, British Gas again, Tadpole Technology and BTR. Eurotunnel was not a star; Glazo Wellcome and BT were sub-average. Only Asda and National Power shone. The odd one out was Trafalgar House. If you bought last December, a rescue bid would have doubled your money by spring. But most 1995 bargain-bunters

had their fingers burnt. The best guide to long-term share picking is to search for good value. But value and apparent cheapness are not the same. Too many of us, it seems, approach the stock market like the January sales, eager to pounce on famous name brands seiling at half price. The goods are usually faulty.



cream. Other to bild, gross income reinvested in Starling, Hong Kong Fund (immohed 26.11.00) since issued performance: 2,12.90 – 2.12.96. Span performance: 2,12.90 – 2.12.96. Span performance: 16.1.96 – 2.12.96 – 2.12.96 – 2.12.96 – 2.12.96 – 2.12.96 – 2.12.96 – 2.12.96 – 2.12.96 – 2.12.96 – 2.12.96 – 2.12



## Pep security guaranteed — just like that

Limited-risk plans may appeal, but

there are drawbacks, Gavin Lumsden says

Banks and fund managers are proving once again that they are magicians with loss of tricks up their sleeves.

With stock markets continuing their impressive yo-yo imperson-ations, amid gloomy forecasts of low growth next year, you would expect the average investment industry wizard to be a bit depressed. Not a bit of it. The latest wheeze to beguile investors is the so-called "guaranteed", or limited-risk, personal equity plan (Pep), which provides capital security, but not a lot else.

This week Barclays launched the second tranche of its Guaranteed Pep, and HSBC Asset Management, sister company to the Midland, announced it had raised £53.6 million for UK Equity Plus 3, its third

limited-risk Pep from Dublin. NatWest, Scottish Widows, Edinburgh Fund Managers, John Govett and even Marks & Spencer are already in the market and Legal &

General. Save & Prosper and Commercial Union have all got development teams working on a product.

Broadly speaking, the new breed of Peps offer one of two guarantees. The first will provide 100 per cent capital security if you keep the Pep for a fixed period, usually five years. The second guarantee, known as the protected floor approach, is

more flexible as it regularly sets a limit below which the fund cannot fall, no matter what happens to the market. A typical level is 98 per cent a quarter, or 95 per cent a year. This is appealing because it locks in growth and protects it from future falls. It is particularly useful if you are planning to take your money out when the market has just dropped, as it did two weeks ago.

Although superficially simple, guaranteed Peps rely on complex bets on the FT-SE 100 index using expensive derivative Instruments. Up to 5 per cent of their assets can be



Fund managers are like magicians with tricks up their sleeves

tied up in derivatives, missing out on the full return from equities. Worse still, many miss out on the dividends companies pay shareholders. This income constitutes 30 per cent of the total return of the

Take the Barclays Guaranteed Pep, which operates the first type of guarantee. It invests in a unit trust that gets capital and income growth by tracking the FT-SE 100 index of the top 100 companies in the UK. If at the end of five years your invest-ment has fallen, the bank promises to make up the difference. If the

index grows, you get all the growth.

Cannot lose? Consider this. If you

automatically lose a massive 12.2 per cent of your capital in charges. In addition to a 5 per cent bid/offer spread, the bank levies a I per cent unit trust fee, a 1.2 per cent guarantee charge, and, worst of all, a 5 per cent withdrawal fee. This latter charge stays at 5 per cent in the second year, 3 per cent in years three and four and drops to I per cent in

Barclays emphasises that the Pep is designed to be a five-year investment and says the withdrawal charge simply covers the cost of the future and options deals it has written to underpin the guarantee.

In contrast, Marks & Spencer's Guaranteed Capital Investment Plan which also tracks the FTSE

Plan, which also tracks the FT-SE 100, offers a money-back guarantee and is due to be reissued in Febru-ary, is more cost-effective with no initial charge, a l per cent annual management charge and a 1.5 per cent guarantee fee. Nevertheless, these charges mean it will underperform the index by 2.5 per cent a year.
In the second camp we have

another example of an FT-SE track-er, the Govett UK Equity Safeguard Pep. By protecting 98 per cent of the assets each quarter and adjusting better return than Barclays or Marks & Spencer. However, unlike the other two, the Govett Pep receives only capital growth from the index. Charges are 5.5 per cent initial and 1.25 per cent annual.

NatWest also offers a Pepable Safeguard unit trust, although it is rebased annually and invests 30 per cent in international equities for diversification. Every June 1 it sets a protected floor price at 95 per cent of the selling price of the fund's units on that day. If the unit price rises by more than 10 per cent, the floor is immediately reset.

The advantage of NatWest's ap-proach is that the most an investor can lose in a year is 5 per cent, whereas with the Govett Pep, total losses for a year are potentially 8 (4x2) per cent. However, the UK stock market has fallen continuously for a year only once in the past 50 years. Rebasing once a year costs less in derivatives deals as well.

The minimum investment in the fund is £1,000 lump sum or £50 per month. There is an initial charge of 4.25 per cent and an annual management fee of 1.5 per cent.

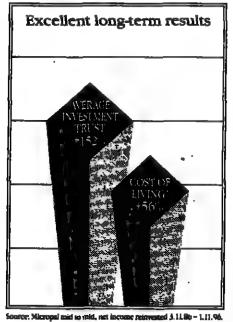
Edinburgh Fund Managers' Safe-ty First fund also protects 95 per cent of the fund on an annual basis. It charges 3.5 per cent initial and 1.25 per cent annual and a 1 per cent exit charge in the first year.

THE biggest problem with guaranteed products is that you could end up doing worse than if you had just left your money on deposit. Take HSBC's Equity Plus 3. It offered capital security plus a minimum of 18 per cent capital growth over five years. This works out at an annual rate of 3.36 per cent, which HSBC admits is bettered by the building socieites, although it rightly points out that the potential for further growth is unlimited. However, once again this upside is linked to capital growth in the FT-SE only. As Mark Dampier, director of Churchill Investments, near Bristol, says. "There is no one product which will solve all vestors' needs. If people want out want to protect themselves

growth from the stock market against risk, they should seek advice on how to construct a simple portfolio divided between cash, gilts and equities." The price of both kinds of protection can also include high charges and an investment performance a third less than from a non-guaranteed Pep.

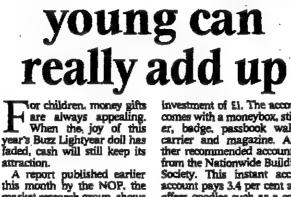
Caroline Merrell on new offers to boost a growing army of child investors

## or £25<sub>a month</sub>, GOVETT gives you the INVESTMENT potential of the world



To establish a globally-orientated, well-diversified portfolio doesn't necessarily require huge sums of money. With the John Govett Investment Trust Savings Scheme, you can begin reaping the rewards of professional fund management for as little as £25 a month or a minimum £250 lump sum. The scheme is specifically tailored for those seeking the prospect of worthwhile returns in the future. Our range of seven investment trusts spans the most promising markets in the UK and the World. You

opal mid to 101d, not income reinvented 3.11.80 - 1.11.96. Can choose from: Govett Oriental, Govett Strategic, Govett American Smaller Companies, Govett Asian Smaller Companies. Govett Emerging Markets, Govett High Income and Govett Global Smaller Companies. A glance at the chart will show just how worthwhile the returns from investment trusts can be. To find out more about our high returns, simply return the coupon or call us free on 0500 796616.



Saving when

A report published earlier this month by the NOP, the market research group, shows that young people form early links with banks and building societies. More than 50 per cent of children in Britain between the ages of seven and nine, now have an account with a bank or building society, with 13 per cent of all respondents having two or

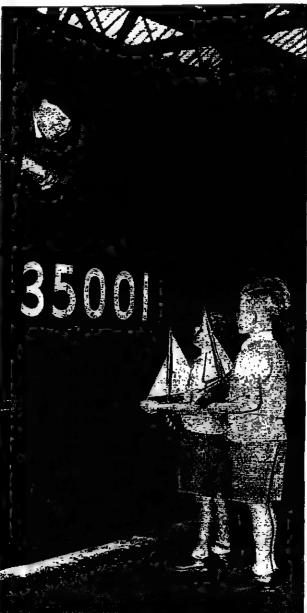
National Savings, banks and building societies all offer special savings plans for children. Children Bonus Bonds pay a tax-free fixed rate 6.75 per cent if held for five years. Minimum investment is £25. With E20 you can open an Investment Account which pays 4.75 per cent. One month's notice is needed for withdrawals, ensuring that curb their retail urges.

Moneyfacts, the savings information specialist, recommends a number of children's accounts, including the Halifax Building Society's Little Xtra/Quest. This instant access account has a 3.1 per cent interest rate with a minimum

carrier and magazine. Another recommended account is from the Nationwide Building Society. This instant access account pays 3.4 per cent and offers goodles such as a compact disc, magazine and welcome pack.

Other less well known societies that offer better rates of interest include the Charley & District, Darlington, Harpen-den and Leeds & Holbeck. For instance, the Chorley & District offers an instant access account with 5.95 per cent interest. Darlington's Foundation instant access account offers an interest rate of 5.75 per cent, while Harpenden Building Society offers the 18 Club account which has a minimum investment of £5. The interest here is 6 per cent. but no withdrawals are permitted until the accountholder reaches 18 years of age. The Leeds & Holbeck Building account which has a minimum investment of £1,000 and offers 6 per cent interest.

The highest interest rate is offered by the tiny Melton Mowbray Building Society. Its Sunny Bond, which has a 30-



Children become model savers with the right train of thought

## Go East and West for the bargains

f you are thinking of spending the £L000 bounty from the flotation of your building society early, a shopping trip to a distant destination might be worth considering. The strength of sterling means that goods bought in foreign climes will be cheaper, and

shopping in a new city can be a novelty. However, the price of standard air fares at this time of year increase, so any savings could be wiped out. The British Airways return fair to New York, for instance, rockets to £648. However, with the dollar standing at about \$1.61, a shopping trip to delve into the delights of Saks of Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdales, and Tiffa-

nys could prove attractive. Shopping in the US can also bring rich pickings in the form of cheap electronic goods - such as compact discs and tapes - and cheap

clothes and designer brands. Those who want to shop a little closer to home could opt to fly to Paris for £91. However, those looking for a bargain should wait for the new year sales.

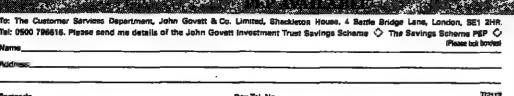
Another favoured destination is Islanbul in Turkey. The Turkish lira is currently trading at a staggering 168,484 to the pound. Istanbui's covered bazaar, in the heart of the city, houses hundreds of stalls selling copper, leather and rugs,

moment to try to get a bargain. Haggling over the price is also in order.

A return British Airways flight to Prague, in the Czech Republic, will cost about £219. Favoured goods are Bohemian crystal, second-hand books and mem-

For the truly bargain conscious, the ten-hour flight to Bangkok could be worthwhile. A British Airways fare could cost between £739 and £1,244. The keen shopper can get cheap clothing, gems and antiques from the Wat Mahathat's market and Khao Sam road.

CAROLINE MERRELL







THERE ARE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS. (WE'RE ONLY CLOSED ON ONE.)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week Now you can pick up the phone and get

pensions information or advice and even set up a plan, quickly and without fuss,

0345 6789 10

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

cour protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded. Information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. Issued by Scottish Widows Fund & Life Assurance Society, a mutual company, Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.



medialicul con

Inefficient stock picking by life offices costs clients thousands of pounds, says Marianne Curphey

## Don't miss the bus in the pension race

Personal pension holders could miss out on thousands of pounds of retirement income because the investment strategy of their life office is woolly and underdeveloped", it was claimed this week. In many cases, they would have been better off buying a pension from a big investment house with clearer investment and stock-picking goals. The report, published by Bacon & Woodrow, the consultant, suggests that many life offices are so uncompetitive and inefficient that they will simply disappear.

B&W estimates that the number of companies selling personal pensions will fall from almost 100 to about 12 by the year 2000.

B&W found institutional managers produced far better returns than those achieved by many life offices that lacked "measurable objectives". Andrew Warwick-Thompson, who compiled the survey, said that the average institutional managed fund outperformed its retail counterpart by 1.8 per cent a year over the past

five years.

He added: "The best retail managers can compete head to head with their institutional counterparts, but many investors in personal pensions run the risk of lower long-term returns which will depress their retirement income. The big investment houses — among them Mercury. Schroders, Morgan Grenfell, Gartmore and PDFM — are starting to challenge the traditional province of the life offices. Most independent financial advisers and personal pension investors are not sufficiently demanding of retail managers."

B&W sees the real problem for private investors as the dearth of good statistical information that would enable them to make choices about the funds to buy.

Figures showing simple accumulated returns did not paint the whole picture because the investor needed to know how risky the fund was in comparison to others in the sector, and whether the returns would have been greater if money had been put into the fund at various times during

Mr Warwick-Thompson said some life offices described their investment strategy as aiming to achieve "aboveaverage performance with the mini-

mum of risk over the long term". "Investors should be asking, what is the long term and how many years? How risky is the fund compared to its peers, and what criteria



BACON & Woodrow claimed that the majority of published research lacked analytical sophistication and suggested in-vestors should ask these basic questions of fund managers: What is the fund's objective? Against what is it measured?

Has the fund met its object tive in the past? Does the manager have welldefined and robust asset allocation and stock selection

Can the manager attribute the added value of each stage of his investment processes to his fund's performance?

Mr Warwick-Thompson said some of the traditional life offices had problems defining what their investment objectives were. "We asked these questions of the funds we surveyed. The retail managers, with some exceptions, were inefficient and did not know what they were trying to achieve."

the description 'above average?" B&W has drawn up a shortlist of pension fund managers that it rates highly, but, unfortunately for investors, it does not reveal which these companies are.

However, of the 308 funds analysed, only 27 met B&W's strict criteria. Among the providers were Norwich Union and Standard Life, which were both singled out for special praise by B&W last year.

Funds were excluded if they had poor performance, were closed to new business, had less than £20 million under management (which was considered to be too small to be successful in the competitive life through independent financial advisers on a nil commission basis.

The providers that made it through

this screening process are listed below. However, a provider may have one fund that was outstanding and others that performed less well. The successful providers were Abbey Life: Allied Dunbar; AXA Equity & Law; Clerical Medical; Commercial Union; Friends Provident; General Accident; Gan Fidelity, Perpetual and Stewart Ivory; Gartmore; Guardian; Legal & General; Lincoln National's Schroders, Managed 3 and Managed 4 funds; London & Manchester's Ex Balanced and Ex Flexible; M&G Pension Managed; Mercury International and Portfolio: National Mutual; Norwich Union; NPI; Old Mutual; Prudential Holborn Managed and Prudential MPP Discretionary; Scottish Life; Scottish Mutual and Scottish Provident; Skandia's Fidelity, Gartmore, Perpetual, Morgan Grenfell and Balanced managed funds; Standard Life, Sun Alliance (now Royal & Sun Alliance) and Sun Life.

Mr Warwick-Thompson said life offices in the future might be forced to contract out funds to investment houses to improve their performance.



Everyone wants to board the best vehicle for retirement funds

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance

## Morgan Grenfell investors owe thanks to Imro

organ Grenfell could have used the announcement of compensation for the 90,000 hapless investors in its European funds as an opportunity to salvage its reputation. However, the group's unimpressive conduct suggests that it has failed to learn from its mistakes and seems not to realise how profoundly the episode has damaged its

Yesterday the group was more concerned about the effect of the payment on the share price of its German parent on the Frankfurt stock market than to make public as soon as possible the iready delayed details of the £200 million package.

This sudden anxiety about the impact of the news on the Deutsche Bank price was puzzling since the amounts involved had appeared in The Times two weeks ago.

But much in the whole affair has been inexplicable and blatant in its disregard for investors' interests. Throughout, Morgan Grenfell has failed to respect its customers' fundamental right to know what is happening to their money. This is shown very clearly in the timetable of events. In April this year, the group became concerned that Peter Young, the investment manager for the three funds, was putting too much money into highrisk unquoted securities.

At this time, the funds were newly swollen with cash from those using their £6,000 annual personal equity plan allowances. They had believed they were putting their money into solid European businesses. Morgan Grenfell did nothing to disabuse them of that

investors first learnt of the scandal at the start of September. A full explanation of though Morgan Grenfell did

quently, however, the group has been less than forthcoming. Even in the compensation announcement, Morgan Grenfell promises only that no investor will actually "lose money" as a result of

recent events" (see page 25). The final payouts are likely to be more generous than this. But investors owe their gratitude for the settlement more to Imro, the investor watchdog that has so carefully safeguarded their interests. Its intervention has been one of the few praiseworthy features in this sorry

#### Guaranteed?

IT IS the cherished ambition of every fund management group to convert the committed building society investor to the stock market cause.

The pursuit of this aim has led to the creation of various types of schemes that promise the excitement of an investment in shares and the solidity of a savings account.

The two may be mutually incompatible, but that does not deter the marketing men. They know that the word "guaranteed" can convince even the most sceptical saver. Add the beguiling words "tax free" and you are on to a winner, which is why unit trust groups are currently putting so much muscle be-hind the promotion and development of their guaranteed personal equity plans (Peps).

The guaranteed Pep seems like the best invention ever (see page 26). You gain if the market rises, but do not lose if it falls. However, as always, the small print contains the true facts. You may not benefit by the full amount of any index increase and may pay heavily if you need your cash in a hurry. Barclays, for example, will slice off 12 per cent. Such meanness is beyond even a building society.

## Income strategy could hamper M&G's trust launch

M&G, one of the UK's biggest fund managers, is unlikely to win much support from advisers and investors for its new investment trust, aimed at the personal equity plan (Pep).

The split capital trust will follow M&G's overall strategy of picking UK stocks that produce higher-than-average income — it is this particular strategy that has been M&G's undoing over the past 12 months. An analysis of the performance of the UK stock

market shows that companies geared for growth did far better than companies that paid out increasing dividends. For instance, M&G's small-

er companies unit trust fell 4 per cent in a year when an average smaller companies unit trusts rose 10 per cent. and the stock market rose 6 per cent. M&G's Equity in-vestment trust, launched at this time last year to coincide with the Pep season, has risen only slightly since launch in spite of attracting nearly £300

group has come under increasing criticism for this philosophy, some in-

denendent financial advisers have stopped putting their clients' money with the group, and, last week, at its annual results briefing, David Morgan, M&G group managing director, faced strong criticism of



cent to 12 per cent over the past ten years. M&G acknowledged that its performance during the year had been poor but said that the UK was now at a stage in the economic cycle where high-yielding stocks would outperform. It said that the

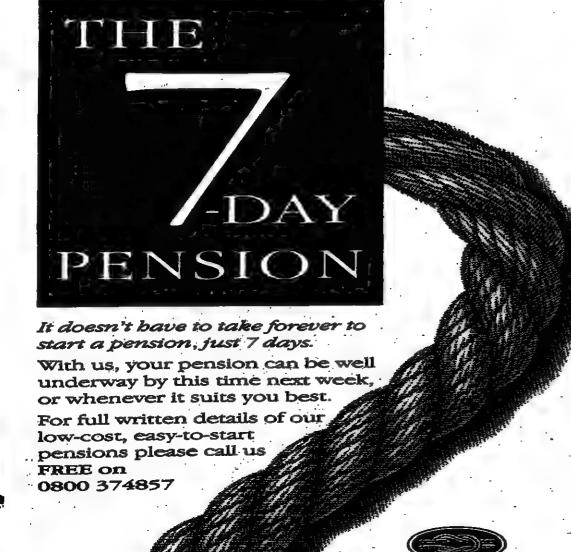
tile

proportion of take advantage of this shift. trusts in M&G is also launching the the top quarfund at this time to coincide with the winding up of its Dual II investment trust - it is dropped hoping that investors will keep from 81 per their cash with the group.

Ian Millward, Chase de Vere adviser, said: "We have been recommending M&G for some time. This fund does not have anything particular to make it worth recommending, although the charges are low."

February and will have a fiveweek launch period. It will carry no initial charge and will have no withdrawal fees. It will be possible to save as little as £50 a month into the trust, which carries a minimum investment of £1,000. Investors can buy a package of growth and income units, and zero-dividend preference shares, or they can just buy the

growth and income shares. CAROLINE MERRELL



**Merchant Investors** Assurance

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and part of Allianz, Europe's largest insurance group.

Mail this coupon to: Merchant Investors Assurance Company Limited, Freepost BS 6013, Bristol BS1 2UZ

MR / MDGS / MrtSS / MrS (Diesse circle as appropriate)				
NITIALS	SURNAM			
ADDRESS	· ·		1.66.30	
	· · · -			
	-	POSTCODE		
		182	1.5	

Are you EMPLOYED or SELF EMPLOYED (please sarche If EMPLOYED are you in your company pen

YES or NO (p**icase circle**)

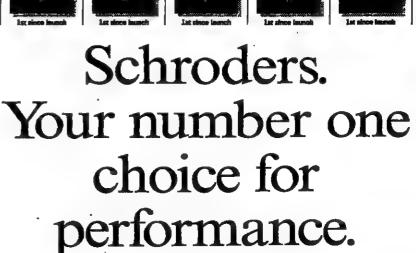












Such unit trust performance will raise few ws in informed circles.

After all, a reputation such as Schroders' cannot built by merely providing impressive short term results. The truth is, Schroders have consistently red outstanding performance for many years.

Nor is it an achievement that has gone unnoticed. We now have over £12 billion under management\*\* in mait trusts from those who already know about our

With more than 4,000 staff in over 20 countries. Schroders have resources above and beyond those of most comparable organisations

Through our 1,000 investment personnel we obtain the in-depth research and local knowledge which has produced top performing unit trust funds. So our results over the last three, five and ten years will come as little surprise.

All of which begs one question. Wouldn't you be better off with Schroders?

You can invest with a minimum of only £1,000 in any one unit trust and our regular investment scheme costs as little as £50 a month.

For more information on our world-class unit trust performance, just call us free or return the coupon below. Alternatively, contact your usual financial adviser.

"Source Micropal buying price to pelling price in relevant sector with no mecome respected to 16 12.96, five year figures from 0,7 12.91. Schroder UK Equity Fund since 03.01.72 (first date recorded on Micropal). 1st

out of 17 and over 5 years 4th out of 112, +103 4% Schroder Tokyo Fund since 02.03 KL, list out of 13 and over 5 years 4th out of 76.

#### Call 0800 002 000 Quoting ref 918

TO: SCHRODERS, CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPT. 01918 FREEPOST, LON 7109, LONDON EC4B 4PD. Please send me my free copy of the Schroder Investment Collection brochure. I am particularly interested in: UK US I Inpan Far East Europe Emerging Markets All of these

+37 7% Schooler Japanese Smaller Companies Fund strice 01.02.84. Ist out of 2R and over 5 years 69th ant of 76. -S.P.- Schooler Uk Enterprise Fund since 01.08.88. In out of 105 and over 5 years 4th out of 128, +136.8: • Schruder Pacific Growth Fund since 02.10.89, 1st out f 26 and over 5 years 2nd out of 40, +145 Pro-Source: Investment Intelligence at 01-12 Mi. Past performance is not necessarily a good: to future performance. The value of uncestments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not not back the concent originally invested. Exchange rates may couse the value of investments to vise or hill.

y Schroder Unit Trusts Limited, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EI. Regulated by IMRO and by the



significant operational cost savings. But

Lord Hollick's stake is a high hurdle to

clear. The shoot-out between the two companies could leave investors up on the

deal, especially as United must pay 420p a

share for HTV under Takeover Panel

rules if it wants to buy the rest of the

company before the end of October. The

The remaining independent franchises - Scottish, Border, Grampian, HTV and

Ulster — are unlikely to remain so beyond 1997. But analysts believe that bid activity

will be put on hold until share prices cool.

channels, pay-per-view TV, and interac-

tive services such as home hanking, shopping, and video on demand, has to be

good news for programme makers. Whether digital channels are delivered

via terrestrial broadcast, satellite, or

Canny companies, such as Flextech, owned by Telecommunications Inc. of the

US, and Chris Wright's Chrysalis Group have been busily accumulating programme rights to auction off at a time

when popular programmes can com-

The BBC has already announced a link

with Flextech and is considering a deal

with BSkyB, the £8.3 billion satellite

broadcaster in which News International,

owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent

cable, they will all need content.

Digital TV, which promises 200-plus

shares are now valued at 360p.

Nathan Yates looks at ways to save money by switching credit cards

## How to avoid a costly new year hangover

hristmas credit card spending is set to hit record levels and for many cardholders a spring debt hangover looms. With 40 per cent of adults likely to spend £400 or more during the festive season, buying on plastic could exceed last year's £4.4 billion figure — and shoppers are unlikely to repay entirely in January. But for those who are faced with a growing repayment burden next year, help is at hand from a new wave of competitive credit card deals.

Many of these are designed to attract a transfer of debts, so there are often added incentives, such as super low tempo-rary rates and an absence of

A survey carried out by The Times shows just how much difference the new offers could make to those with negative balances this spring. The £483 six-month cost of a £5,000 debt with Barclaycand can be reduced by £165 if the balance is transferred to Hamilton Direct's Visa card. Move it to Beneficial Bank's English Heritage Visa and the cost will be reduced by £200.40. Better still, transfer it to MBNA's Mastercard/Visa and the saving will be £241.80, which in effect means that the interest paid over the six-month period will be cut by more than half.

For smaller borrowing habits the expenditure may matter less, but even with an outstanding balance of £2,000 it is still possible to make significant savings. A £2,000 debt at Barclaycard costs £193,20 over

Barreficial Bank

People's Bank Conneticut



If you shop like Alicia Silverstone does in Clueless, it need not spell financial disaster

six months. Through transferring the balance, this can be reduced by between £57.60 at the People's Bank of Connecticut and £96.96 at MBNA, Capital One Bank or Bradford and Bingley Building Society. In each of these cases the transfer of balance costs nothing, because there is no annual

Some of the biggest savings to be made in the new year come from American credit card companies such as the People's Bank of Connecticut or MBNA, who are accustorned to heavier borrowing. But British companies have

Transfer Deal

Lower rain of

11.9% for 8 months Lower rate of 9.9% for 5 months

9.9% for 8 months

Lower rate of 12.9% for 6 months

14.4% rate (no time restriction) Lower rate of 7.9% until April 97

Lower rate of 11.9% for 1 year Lower rate of 11.3% until Nov 97

10.9% the

\* Assuming an angulal APR of 23% and that the balance remains constant

HOW THE DEALS FOR DEBT TRANSFER COMPARE

joined the race to undercut traditional main players -and even some high street banks such as Midland Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland now offer reduced rate

The cheapest rate credit card at the moment is Cooperative Bank's Advantage Visa, which charges 7.9 per cent APR until April I next year. Like Hamilton Direct's Visa or R Fleming/S&P Base Rate Linked, the Advantage card recoups some of the costs of the reduced rate by offering no interest-free period. Borrowers who intend escaping

Amount inved over 6 months on debts of 000022

296,96

F96.98

257.60

£102.60

279.00

DIS.EC

E200.40

E241.80

£144,00

C221,415

But some of the new cards manage to stay attractive long after the festive overspend has been mastered. The People's Bank of Conneticut offers its Mastercard/Visa at 14.4 per cent APR - 8.1 per cent less than Barclaycard's rate. The interest-free period for both cards is an identical 56 days. Unlike other cut-rate companies, People's Bank is not limiting its reduction to a six

from interest payments alto-gether should remember this.

companies can claim that cer-

tain cut-rate deals are merely

ways of enticing borrowers

into paying more later. So-called "teaser" rates, like

called "teaser" rates, like MBNA's 9.9 per cent, usually

expire after six months. In

MBNA's case, it is replaced by a rate of 18.9 per cent on all

new transactions, excluding

cash and cheques.

Traditional major UK card

lt's a formula which will attract both consistent overspenders and those who can keep repayments under controi. Ron Urquart, of People's Bank, says: "The credit card industry is changing in the UK and I believe we are at the cutting edge. There is increasing competition to improve services and this means consumers will be the winners. And yes, it also means that overspending on your plastic may not be such a serious mistake this Christmas."

Thought for the day



See an IFA

THE BEST AND STREET AND ASSESSED AS BUTTERS FOR PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND OF THE PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST AND ASSESSED AS A SECOND PROPERTY OF THE BEST ASSESSED.

B id frenzy in the television sector has sent share prices sky high in expectation of more telegraphs. expectation of more takeovers. As a result, the sector is trading at a 40 per cent premium to the rest of the stock market, presenting few obvious investment bargains.

مكذا عن الأحل

But a few well-chosen stocks should bear fruit as further consolidation and deal making is inevitable. Next year will see the launch of Channel 5, the UK's fifth terrestrial channel, and the first trumpet blasts in the digital TV revolution.

Lorna Tilbian, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, the stockbroker, says: All ITV companies are benefiting from higher advertising revenues in the fourth quarter, reflecting the return of the 'feelgood' factor in the high street. The Advertising Association is expecting 7 per cent growth in revenue this year compared with last." Her favourite stock is Carlton Communications, which at a 15 per cent premium to the rest of the stock market, is relatively cheap.

This year has seen the three big players -- Carlton, Granada, and United News & Media - begin the grand ITV carve-up, signalled by the merger between United

and Lord Hollick's MAI group. Michael Green's Carlton, the largest independent TV company, which owns the London weekday and Central ITV franchises, added Westcountry, the South West of England ITV franchise, to its roster for £85 million last month.

From Mr M. Lawrence

Sir, Mr Bowtell's letter (De-

cember 14), while admirably

explaining the principle of shared risk, singularly fails to

answer the very profound

point raised by previous corre-

spondents. The capital in my

pension fund is my money.

should be able to choose how l

Currently, I have to purchase

an annuity at some time. The

rates on that annuity should

reflect how long the insurance

company expects me to live for.

and should increase the yield

above whatever normal refer-

ence rate available, to account

for repaying me my principal

in addition to that normal

reference rate. This annuities

As a concrete example. I

could point to the variously

Sir, Alerted by a letter from Geoffrey Negus, of Solihull, in

Weekend Money Letters on June 15 — I also then lived in

Solihull — I'checked my gas bills to see if I was receiving

the 6 per cent discount due for

direct debit payments. I was

Successive phone calls to

British Gas in Solihuli pro-

duced promises but no action.

It has taken two months' effort

by the Gas Consumers Coun-

cil in Birmingham to persuade

them to send me a

Thank you, The Times;

thank you, Mr Negus; and

thank you, Gas Consumers

But I am left wondering

Are they really so

Council

about British Gas.

RICHARD LINDLEY,

Yours faithfully.

28 Denham Close,

**British Gas delay** 

From Mr R. Lindley

wish to spend it.

fail to do.

Scottish TV, part-owned by Flextech, the cable and satellite operator, and the Mirror Group, recently sold its 20 per cent

No choice but to vent annuity anger available building society perpetual issues (Pibs) or perhaps the Standard Chartered per-

petual floating rate note. Both types of instrument pay well above short-term products, and compare favourably with the yields on longer-term products. So if I were to use my pension fund to purchase elther of these I would either gain, or not lose significantly, just in terms of annual interest paid. When I die, both of these types of investment would still be available to my heirs to sell in the market to recover my original capital.

I do not think that anyone could argue that any of the building society issues, or Standard Chartered, represents an unacceptable risk compared to any insurance company, despite the precise terms under which interest may be delayed or avoided in se instruments — the likeli-

hood is vanishingly small. Finally, to add insult to injury. I know from my own professional experience, which is closely related to both of these types of instrument, that the insurance companies have purchased these types of product in order to back their pension liabilities.

Just think of what they may do with my pension fund when I retire — buy some Standard Chartered [perpetual floating rate notes), pay me the interest and then keep the bond itself when I die. I can manage that myself, thank you. What I want annuity, especially when it is my generation that is paying national insurance contributions for which we will not get any meaningful state pension when retirement finally arrives.

Yours faithfully, M. LAWRENCE, Cranfield Park, Suffolk

### **SECTOR** IN FOCUS



## Take a look at the TV concerns

stake in HTV to United. And Granada, the leisure and media giant that makes Coronation Street, is expected to gobble up the rest of Yorkshire Tyne-Tees TV eventually -- it already owns 27 per cent. Carlton would love to get its hands on HTV as its adjacent position to Westcountry would allow it to make

#### Pension treatment unfair

From Mr C. G. Wyman Sir, Mr Bowtell's letter explaining annuities (Weekend Money, December 14) does not alter their iniquity. What this explanation amounts to is that when pension savings are invested by the annuity provider in fixed-interest securities, pensioners are simultaneously entered into a lottery based on age. Those who live longer than a certain age receive benefit from other people's savings and those who die before that age pass benefit from their savings to other people. The institutional provider aims to skim off 4 per cent of an annuitant's capital as a fee for being the lottery

manager. Surely it remains unfair that pensioners are compelled by government rules to both

stake. BSkyB is pressing ahead with its own "set-top box" technology needed to decode the digital signal. MATTHEW WALL THE MES WELLEN WATER LETTERS

mand a fat premium.

forfeit their pension capital and pay yet more fees by gambling in this way. Why should they not be allowed, if they so choose, simply to invest their own savings in government or other appropriate securities and leave

their remaining capital, less tax, to their families at death? The "income drawdown" scheme referred to by Mr Mitchell (Weekend Money Letters, November 30) offers some escape, but only up to age 75 when the purchase of an annuity becomes compulsory. If that upper age limit were removed much of the iniquity would go with it. Yours faithfully,

C. WYMAN. The Green. Blakesley, Towcester, Northamptonshire.

#### CEVAL TOWARDES \_\_ MOVEMBER 18.

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in November 1996

1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 0.888 0.772 0.687 0.599 0.539 0.490 0.386 0.855 0.785 0.674 0.693 0.533 0.484 0.377 0.937 0.952 0.759 0.658 0.591 0.630 0.478 0.370 0.898 0.826 0.736 0.624 0.578 0.512 0.455 0.348 0.886 0.818 0.730 0.616 0.873 0.510 0.449 D.33E 0.880 0.814 0.725 0.813 0.574 0.510 0.444 0.334 0.880 0.804 0.727 0.616 0.578 0.512 0.442 0.332 0.879 0.796 0.711 0.612 0.573 0.507 0.426 0.329 0.880 0.788 0.708 0.813 0.586 0.503 0.420 0.320 0.862 0.776 0.892 0.804 0.880 0.488 0.399 0.398 0.865 0.771 0.894 0.802 0.545 0.490 0.395 0.295 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1996 1996 0.288 0.182 0.135 0.116 0.089 0.054 0.026 0.268 0.171 0.126 0.105 0.090 0.043 0.016 0.230 0.166 0.109 0.095 0.067 0.033 0.009 0.219 0.153 0.105 0.091 0.064 0.027 0.007 0.215 0.146 0.105 0.091 0.084 0.027 0.006 0.214 0.150 0.109 0.094 0.089 0.032 0.010 0.201 0.148 0.108 0.089 0.084 0.027 0.005

The Rt month for deposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1965 (April 1, 1985 to Companies) is the moral in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1962 where the expenditure was incurred before their morals.

0.190 0.143 0.104 0.085 0.081 0.022 0.001

0.181 0.139 0.100 0.095 0.000 0.027 0.001 0.184 0.135 0.102 0.007 0.059 0.027 —

0.185 0.134 0.106 0.085 0.064 0.021





DO YOU REMEMBER 98% TAX ? INVESTMENT INCOME SURCHARGE ?

#### **ARE YOU WORRIED?**

THE INVESTOR'S GUIDE TO LIFE UNDER LABOUR IS ESSENTIAL READING FOR ALL INVESTORS. IT IS PROFESSIONALLY WRITTEN AND EXTENSIVELY RESEARCHED BY A LEADING

THIS 20 PAGE GUIDE IS NOT ABOUT POLITICS, IT IS ABOUT DEVELOPING PRUDENT STRATEGIES.

- WHAT ARE LABOUR LIKELY TO DO
- · WHAT THE CITY SAYS
- MAXIMISE OPPORTUNITIES
- MINIMUSE THREATS
- SECTORS TO BUY, SECTORS TO SELL.

RANGREAVES LANSDOWN ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD ADDRESS



NOW THERE'S MORE INTEREST IN THE POST

\$50,000 - \$99,999 6.05% £25,000 - £49,999 | 5,95% 4.76% £10,000 - £24,999 | 5,90% 4.72% £5,000 - £9,999 5.55% And you don't have to go any further than your nearest post box.

CALL LOCAL RATE

**ALLIANCE & LEICESTER** 

INSTANT DIRECT

It is now purpose purpose and, in amore as one coupons repairation grace. Policies to pure amore, exp. for amore made by chaque, interest is calculated from the lauric byrologic day belowing the day before undersonal Albanium age 18. Both semilate in CR residents. Albanium age 18. Both semilate in CR residents. Albanium and CE, MOD. Fall terms and conditions are single to respect Albanium & Lauretter Belleting Sociates Caster, PO Box 472, 125 - 125 Yangton Way, Lauretter LEI 420 December 1886.

Fur norgan Morg Impo

# Morgan Grenfell European Growth Trust.

## Morgan Grenfell Europa Fund.

# Morgan Grenfell European Capital Growth Fund.

# Important announcement for investors.

Morgan Grenfell Asset Management Limited and IMRO have agreed a package of compensation for investors in the above funds.

#### Who is eligible?

Investors will be considered for compensation if they held any of the three funds at any time between 1 August 1995 and 5 September 1996, whether or not they continue to invest in the fund(s).

#### What is the basis for compensation?

Investors will be compensated for any difference between the actual return they received from their Morgan Grenfell investment(s) and the return provided over the above period by an agreed index of comparable funds drawn from appropriate Micropal\* data.

In addition, in the event that investments have lost value, even after this calculation, Morgan Grenfell will compensate investors up to the value of their original investment.

#### How will compensation be paid?

Those eligible for compensation will have the option of receiving either new units in the relevant fund(s) or cash.

#### When will compensation be paid?

The process of calculating compensation will begin immediately. Because of the large number of investors in the funds, payments are scheduled to be made at the end of April 1997.

#### Will interest be paid?

Yes. Investors will receive a payment in respect of interest on their compensation from 5 September 1996 or the date on which their holding in the fund(s) was sold, if earlier, until compensation is paid.

#### How are PEP holders affected?

The compensation package does not affect the tax-free status of PEPs.

#### How much will each investor receive?

This will depend on the timing of each investor's purchase(s) and sale(s) in the fund(s), but every investor will be compensated at least up to the level of their original investment. This means that no one will lose money as a result of recent events at Morgan Grenfell.

We will not know how much each investor will receive until we have completed the task of calculating individual payments. This is scheduled for the end of April 1997.

#### What should investors do now?

Investors need take no action as there is no requirement to register for compensation.

We are unable to give estimates of individual compensation payments.

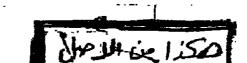
We have written to all investors in the three affected funds on 20 December and will be writing to them again at the end of January 1997 with a history of their transactions in the fund(s) together with further information on the compensation package.



Issued by Morgan Grenfell Investment Funds Limited which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and Morgan Grenfell Unit Trust Managers Limited which is regulated by IMRO and is a member of AUTIF.

Both companies are located at 20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 1UT. Telephone 0800 282465.

\*an independent source of statistics on investment funds





PERSONAL LOANS

Birminghan Bradford & Bradford & Brassol & W

Northern Rock BS 0345 421421

## THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

## Winter tips point to home safety

A FREE guide to keeping homes safe and secure over Christmas and the new year is being offered by Saga Services in response to a spate of claims for household accidents last winter. Many of these could have been avoided, according to the company, which specialises in services for the over-50s. The booklet gives advice on how to prevent burst pipes, subsidence and burglary during the colder months. Saga's tips include leaving the heating on at a minimum of 58F or draining your water system if you plan to be away; and using a hair dryer to apply gentle heat to frozen pipes. Call 0800 505253 from Monday.

A proportion of the 1.6 million statements of account currently being issued by the Inland Revenue for the purposes of self-assessment have been incorrectly calculated, according to Blick Rothenberg, the chartered accountant. Taxpayers face interest charges of 8.5 per cent if an incorrect statement of account is relied upon. Tax is payable on the following dates: gross investment and rental income one payment on January 31: income tax and class four NI

1 Year

income and certain pensions and employment earnings two instalments on January 31 and July 31.

■ The Outline Guide to Charitable Giving and Establishing Charitable Gift Trusts has been updated and extended for 1997. The guide, by John Harrison, describes how to establish charitable gift trusts for both individuals and companies and how to claim basic rate tax for the trust and corporation tax for the donor. Detailed sections cover the gift aid scheme and the legal responsibilities of the settlor and the trustees. Changes in the Finance Act 1996 are £45 (includes post and packaging) to Investment and Tax Publishing Services, 31 Ayles-bury Road, Bedford, MK41 9RJ.

■ Due to an error, the compulsory purchase annuity rates on December 14 were for inflation-linked annuities rather than level annuities. An index-linked annuity is between 30 and 35 per cent lower than a level annuity. The correct figures for this week are printed on this page.

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at December 19, 1996

10,000

1,000 10,000

10,000

Premium Life

Premium Life Premium Life

Premium Ula Premium Life

Premium Life Premium Life Premium Life

Premium Life ITT London & Edin

LIZANNE ROSE

Standard Rute (%)

5.30 5.60 5.70 6,80

5.15 5.95 6.10

5.50 6.20 6.30 5.35

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes paid
Teachers' BS 01202 887171	Buttion	Instant	£500	4.80	½YI)
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	inst by Post	Postal	£5,000	5.70	Yh
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post	Posta!	£10,000	6.00	Yh
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post	Postal	£25,000	6.05	YŊ
		Notice			riteres
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	paid
Cheltenham & Glos 0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day p	£100	5.50	YIy
First National BS 01232 314050	High Yield	30 day	£25,000	6.45	ΥŊ
Leopold Jos & Sons 0171 588 2323	40 Day Notice	40 day	£10,000	6.22	Yh
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 225 7777	Postal Bonus	30.4.98p	£10,000	7.00	ON
		Notice			interes
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Rixed rate	5 year	28,575	7.50	F/Yly
NatWest Blank 0800 200400	Fixed rate	5 уеаг	£5,000	7,45	F/Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	Infilm Beater	5 year	£1,000	7.00	Yly
West Bromwich BS 0990 143688		5 year	£250	7.00	Yīy

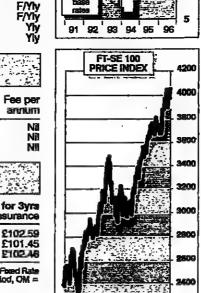
NatWest Bank 0800 200400 Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721 West Bromwich BS 0990 143688	Fixed rate Infilm Beater	5 year 5 year 5 year	£5,000 £1,000 £250	7.45 7.00 7.00	F/Yly Yly Yly
VSZ CRE	DIT CARDS	BEST BU	YS	e karana Maria	
CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Inte per mo		PR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000 Capital One Bank 0800 689000 Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	Advantage Vis Viss MasterCard/V	0.797	%N 9.90		NA NA NII
£? PERS	ONAL LOANS	S BEST B	UYS		

£114.78 £114.25 RBS Direct 0800 121125 14.00% 14.80%E Direct Line 0141 248 9966 E102.48

12.90%H

£112.68

au paid on Madany, P = by Post Only	
* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE	
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING	
rue; MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to investment & Montgage Rates (01692 500 677)	



TION ST					
		755		19.00	
BASE RATES V 15		TION	AL SAV	MCD	
MORTGAGES:		- giz	201		
14	2	iax rates	Min/medimum		
1     1   1	Gross At rate 20		investment C	Notice	Contact
13					0845 64500
1 1 1 1 1	Ordinary A/c <sup>1</sup> 1.50 1.2		10-10,000** 20-500***	1mth	0645 64500
<del>。├──}</del>	4 4 7E Q 8	0 2.85	20-500	3mth	0645 64500
		0 3.002,	000-25,000**	O11121	0645 64500
<b>L</b>   - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -		0 3.601,	100-10,000	8day	0845 64500
Halitax	43rd Issue Certte 5.35		25-1,000	1mth	0645 64500
intribute	Children's Bond† 6.75		20-11000	,,,,,	0645 64500
nme 10	Gen Ext Rate 3.51	2 3.99	100-250,000	8day	0845 64500
		2 3.30	100-10,000	8day	0645 64500
9	9th Index Linked† <sub>3</sub> 2.50	n 490	500-50,000 <sub>0</sub>		0645 64500
	Pensnrs Bond S3 a 7.00 5.6				
	First E70 (E140 p) of est law free, est	accs for u	o to =100 - Adolb	onai hidgs	up to 120.000 i n had lor 5 mm
	reinvested processos. Trex liev	Utaba fare	neielberg to ST At	rd S2 haldi	ngs Tavable b
	40.2% net banus for £20,000+ £21 and in full 7£500-100,000 eem hig.	tou,uuu ji in i iher omes *	Tiered rates ACC	y	_
<del>78 -            -</del>	CARO SU INK . FORTH INN'TOTA AREIL IN	F 107 1100-E			0-74- F-7-
		Alta e		-0.25	- Bar
6		(510)			
	<b>打</b>			100	
5				ib. 104	000 000
92 93 94 95 96	All figures are the	gross a	uunar anur	my (£ )	oo,ooo n advance
	purchase), guarantee	d 5 yea	is, baid lik	niully 11	i data
FT-SE 100	SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male	: Age 60	Age 6	5 Age 7
RICE INDEX 4200	Destable Level		£9,860	210,88	£12,29
Aurick	PrudentialLevel		£9,844	£10,88	£12,23
4000	Standard LfLevel		29,776	210,84	4 £12,24
	Canada LfLevel		£9,756	210,83	€12,30
3800	Equitable LfLevel		£9,905	£10,82	4 £12,02
				4 0	Age 7
3800	SINGLE LIFE	Female	: Age 60	Age 6	- Age /
7.	PrudentialLevel		£9.204	£9,956	
3400	Canada LifeLevel		£9,059	£9,86	
	GeneraliLevel		28,950	£9,803	
· ***	Sun Lf of CanLevel-		€8,990	29,732	
3200	General AccLevel		£8,907	£9,69	2.10,03
to the	POINT LIEE OF MIDOMS	Male	Age 60	Age 65	Age 7
3000	JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Female		Age 60	
	flexer statestal)	- Winds	. 49- 44		
2900	PrudentialLevel		£8,768	29,357	
22.0	GeneraliLevel		28,626	29,252	£10,11
2600	Canada LifeLevel		28,633	29,250	£10,12
	Sun Lf of CanLevel		£8,612	29,189	
2400	Equitable ULevel		£8,660	29,186	25,50
436 T	Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 5	2393)			
7.75 (1.75 (1.75 )					

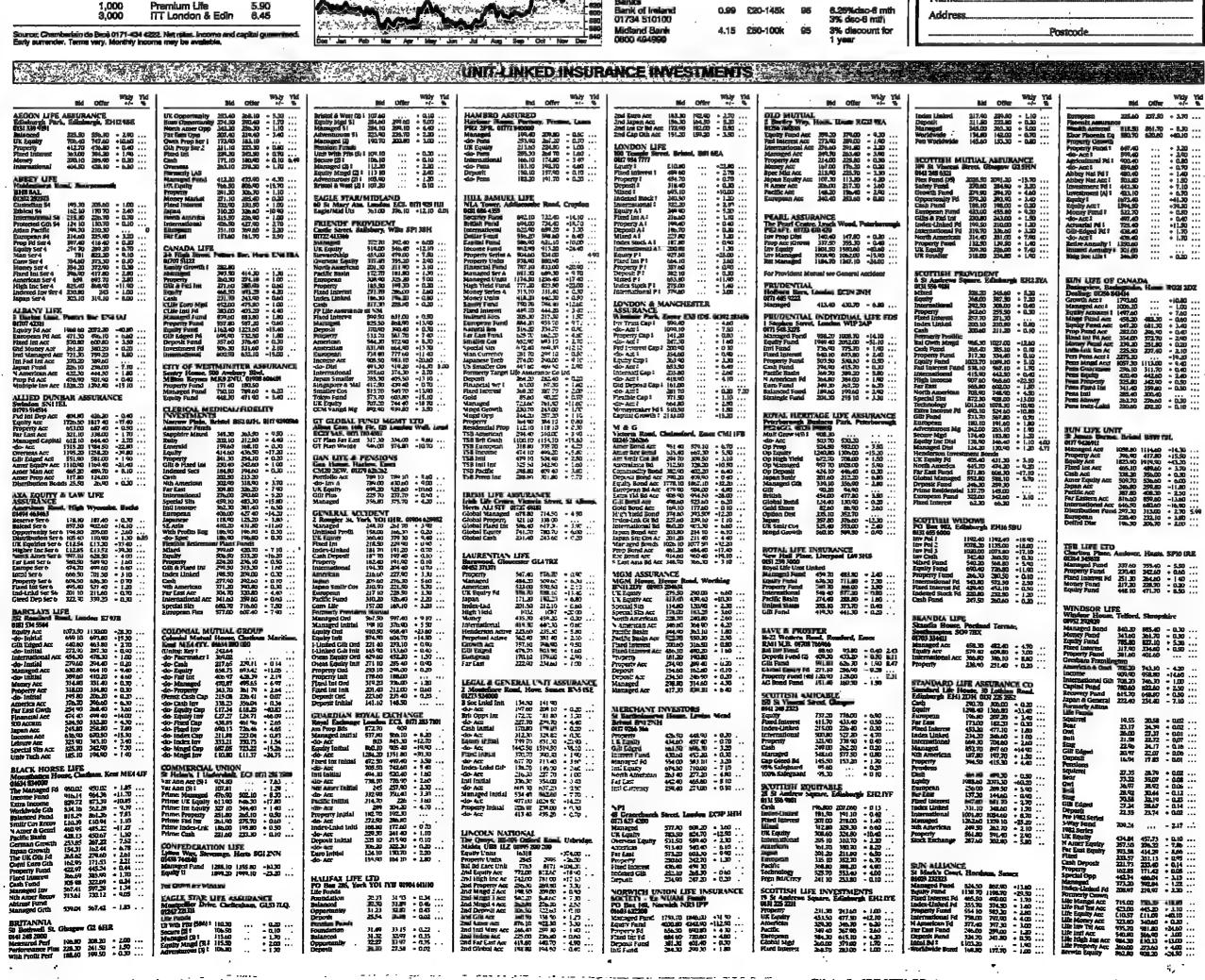
					(- :	,									
	P	IBŠ .			Agry in	%	LAR	GER LE	NDE	<b>PS</b>	%	FIK		80	
	Gross	Buying	% Gross ylaid	lesus price	Minimum purchase imount	Lender	Interest % ets	Loan size	Max %	Notes	Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Mex %	Notes
RATE am Midshires & Bingley	9,375% 11,625%	101.59	9.220 9.382	100.17	1,000	Building Societies Birm Midwhines 01344 394000	3.74	£100k+	75	4% disc-31.7.97	Building Societi Bristol & West 0800 608088	les 1.95	. £15k+	95	5.04% disc 6 minth then 1% disc-6mth
& Bingley West	13.000% 13.375%	139.28	9,334	100.20	1,000	Bristol & Wast 0800 608088	1.95	£15k+	90	Fored at 1.95% to 1.10.97	Coventry 0800 126125	5.11	to £125k	95	2.14% discount for 12 months
onet	13.000% 12.125% 11.760%	138.83 130.99 122.91	9.364 9.230 9.560	100.42 100.75 100.25	1,000 1,000 10,000	Nettonwide 0600 302010	3,59	to £500k	86	3.40% discount for 1 year	Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.74	£15-150k	95	3,25% discount for 12 months
or wa	8,750% 12,000%	97.14 131.22	9.008	100.62 100.28	50,000 50,000	Banks Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	20-145k	95	6.25% dec-6 mits 3% dec-6 mits	Banks Bok of (reland	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mins
Holbeck	13.625% 13.375% 10.750%	149.81 144.75 117.68	9.095 9.240 9.123	100.00 100.23 100.32	50,000 1,000 1,000	Midland 0800 494999	4.00	£100k+	80	3% discount for 12 months	01794 510100 TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.51	£15k+	95	3% disc 6 months 3.74% discount for 12 months
Rock	12.625% 12.625% 12.875%	137.84 139.41 139.19	9.159 9.058 9.250	100.45 100.14 100.48	1,000 1,000 1,000	%	LA	RGER I	OAI	IS I		and first-time	buyers tables b	y Bley's G	Lides Ltd. (01783 880482).
NG RATE	Gross	Buy		saue price	Minimum purchase	Lander	Interest	Loan	Mex	Motor					3

entolin)	154 154 79	160.00	9,240	140.74	1,000
First National	11,760%	122.91	9,560	100.25	
Halifes	8,750%	97.14	9,008		
Halifax	12,000%	131.22	5.877	100.28	
Hallfax	13.625%	149.81	9.095	100.00	
Leads & Holbeck	13,375%	144.75	9,240	100.23	
Newcastle	10.750%	117.68	9.123	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12,025%	137.84	9.158	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	139.41	9.056	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	139,19	9,250	100,48	1,000
	Gross	Buyi	na k	SSUR	Minimum
ELOATING DATE		pri		orice	purchase
FLOATING RATE			'		<del></del>
Cheshire (28/09-27/09	318.41563%	107.	63 10	0.00	1.000
Cheshire (28/09-27/03 First Net(20/09-20/03)		107./ 101./		0.00 0.00	1,000 1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03)	8.48750%	101.			
First Nat(20/09-20/03) Ned - Parmurant interes	8.48750% Descring shares	101.			
First Nat(20/09-20/03)	8.48750% Descring shares	101.			
First Nat(20/09-20/03) PSG — Parmanus Interest Source: ABN AMRO House	8.48750% Country charts Govets — 0171	101.1 801 0101	63 10		
First Nat(20/09-20/03) PEG = Parmonus Interest Source: ABN AMRO House SHARE IN POCUS	8.48750% Count — 0171	BOT BTO1	63 10		
First Nat(20/09-20/03) PEG = Parmonus Interest Source: ABN AMRO House SHARE IN POCUS	8.48750% Country charts Govets — 0171	BOT BTO1	63 10		1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03) PEG = Parmonus Interest Source: ABN AMRO House SHARE IN POCUS	8.48750% Count — 0171	BOT BTO1	63 10	0.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03) PEG = Parmonus Interest Source: ABN AMRO House SHARE IN POCUS	8.48750% Count — 0171	BOT BTO1	63 10	0.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03) PEG = Parmonus Interest Source: ABN AMRO House SHARE IN POCUS	8.48750% Count — 0171	BOT BTO1	63 10	0.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03) PEG = Parmonus Interest Source: ABN AMRO House SHARE IN POCUS	8.48750% Count — 0171	BOT BTO1	63 10	0.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03) PEG = Parmonus Interest Source: ABN AMRO House SHARE IN POCUS	8.48750% Count — 0171	BOT BTO1	63 10	0.00	1,000
First Nat(20/09-20/03) PEG = Parmonus Interest Source: ABN AMRO House SHARE IN POCUS	8.48750% Count — 0171	BOT BTO1	63 10	0.00	1,000

%	LA	RGER I	OAI	18
Lander	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	230-100k	95	6.99% dec-6 mt 2%-6mth,0.5%-
Charley & District 01257 279373	0.50	260-120k	80	6% discount for 6 months
Marmilikid 01246 202055	0.39	£75-126k	90	6.35% dsc-6 mt 2%-8mth,1%-1y
Banks Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.29	£20-145k	96	6.25%dsc-6 mti 3% dsc-6 mti)
Midland Bank 0800 464990	4.15	250-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year

THE
THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE NINETIES CAN YOU ALWAYS GET YOUR COPY?
Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of THE TIMES
Name
Address
Postcode

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose



MENS ON ANNUITIES

II 336 IMB,

Sell Bay Wash Ta			an explainment services	ACE VALUE NO.	49 64 42	
## 1957 1965 783 **O'BERS 286 783 **Grands Armer***  ## 275 0 240,70† - 2.50  ## 205 0 205 0 4.00  ## 152 0 132.0  ## 152 0 132.0  ## 152 0 132.0  ## 152 0 132.0  ## 152 0 132.0  ## 152 0 132.0  ## 152 0 132.0  ## 152 0 132.0  ## 152 0 132.0  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10  ## 153 0 154.30† - 6.10	CAZENOVE LINET TRUST MENT L'ID	Sed Bay +1 - V  Provided Sections 14887 (17th) Bern 1477 - S20 Section Department (17th) Bern 1477 - S20 Section Department (17th) Anterior Security - 7120 - 1480 - 0.45	Set	Self   Bay   101-50   100-50   100-50   100-50   101-50   102-50	19 Size Cup 91 52 97 361 + 296 3.11 do Assaul 107 20 11400 + 3.30 3.11 PRODUITAL UNIT TRUSTS 1.70	Scale   Bury   Visit
ANA FOLITY & LAW UNIT TST MICRS 19 201 502 7 502 7 502 7 502 50 502 7 502 50 502 7 502 50 502 7 502 502	CENT SED OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SOR SOTS  TO SELECT SED OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SOR SOTS  TO SELECT SED OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SOR SOTS  TO SELECT SED OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SOR SOTS  TO SELECT SED OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SEE SOTS  TO SELECT SED OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SEE SOTS  TO SELECT SED OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SEE SOTS  TO SELECT SED OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SEE SOTS  TO SELECT SEC OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SEE SOTS  TO SELECT SED OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SEE SOTS  TO SELECT SEC SED OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SEE SOTS  TO SELECT SED OF CHURCH OF CHURCH OF ENG  OTT SEE SOTS  TO SELECT SED OF CHURCH OF C	- de-Accum 198.00 168.40 + 250 250   Marine & Growth # 163.10 17170 + 250 4.0   Marine & Growth # 163.10 17170 + 250 4.0   Marine & Growth # 163.10 17170 + 250 4.0   Marine & Growth # 163.10 17170 + 250 4.0   Marine & Growth # 163.10 17170 + 250 4.0   Marine & Growth # 163.10 17170   Marine & Gro	do Accord   267.00   284.00   182.00	600 A Freez for   95,70   901,90   + 0.50   5.18   income   125,10   111,00   + 3.20   2.30   legen Genuth   42,55   44,89   - 1.73   librarged   51,18   63,35   + 118   192   librarged   59,00   92,47   + 2,11   3.90   Month Amenican   99,22   105,20   - 2,20   0.46   library Construction   15,51	Manager   14   469	State   Stat
Balances Acc 64.18 88.26 + 1.28 2.58 Balances Acc 54.52 51.75 + 1.17 2.53 Japan Acc 385.50 475.70 + 5.60 0.00	CITY FORMULA, UT WERE LTD	do Access	17302282 1773   Sept.   Sept	ACCURATE APPRICATE DEVICATION OF THE TOTAL CONTROL	15:47 163.27 + 670 2.20	SHARP (ALBERT E) Segente: 01277 227 300 Desing (1)227 281 810 European 151 40 152 10 + 3 40 0.52 Its Associam 151 40 152 10 + 1 40 sell Bard & Cone 155 50 134 60 + 0 30 642 Pooled Peace (5) 254 20 251 827 + 4 50 225 50 Sealed Ex 118 10 124 301 + 0 80 0.94 Lift Camera 133 90 178 351 + 3 30 2.06 Fe izalish 60 31 92 95 - 1.00
### A Part   March   ### A Part	Sections fel		M 8 G SEXEMPTIES  Lost Sequitatible; 0746 390 390  Anne I General  San Sequitatible; 0746 390 390  Anne I General  San Sequitatible; 0746 390 390  Anne Recovery  Fill Sequitatible; 0746 0746 0747 0746  Anne Sequitatible; 0746 0746 0746 0746  Anne	Tenter 1771 98 7476 Fromter: 1771 987 777	6171 407 5966 He he he he 55 31 99 H6 + 2.42 3.78 He he he he 155 50 121 45 + 917 9 052 UK Sameller Coc. 102.21 113 79 + 2.23 1.20  FLUT LUT LUT LUT LUT LUT LUT LUT LUT LUT	0171 526 5226  UF (sport lot.): 104 52 + 1.40 4.25  Sading Sature: 101 47 + 0.00 4.75  Fracess income 1 102 70 + 0.55 5.26  Let Part: 106 66 + 0.57  Albert: 1 65 12 + 0.86
Manager to:   MEI   9   51.277   0.02   488   Masterson   157.22   178.90   2.02   182   182   Energing Dat   201.80   778.80   1.02   182   Energing Dat   202.80   778.80   1.02   1	CLERGAL MEDICAL UT MOTHE LTD  69/15/772 293 Anantena Garba Daugus Guanda 77.655 77.565 77.565 79.677	Page	Ame & General ide learner ide	Color   Colo	ROTHSCHILD RINGS SANAGEMENT   Dudies: 0771 623 1000	Cito Gian PEP 77 3 21 43 + 109 1 15 In Titol PEP 57 29 60.94 + 0.27 253 Ped las PEP 105 90 112.50 + 100 5 103 SWITH & WILLIAMSON UT MIGRS
NCT 220 6733 IN Seed Cas 2341 00 2430 00 + 4.05 MATHEET LIEST TREET MINES (TI) 0000 633 200	CTATO SEE COD	Friedman Con 7 7047 31.55 + 1.44 494 Eschart 190 200 20 20120 + 420 1.44 191 191 191 191 191 191 191 191 191 1	Cold Secretary   Cold	MARRAY JOHNSTONE UT MANT  THAT THE JOHNSTONE UT MANT  HARRAY JOHNSTONE UT MANT  Assemble 100,00 102,10 + 170 178  Assemble 100,00 102,10 + 160 178  Assemble 100,00 102,10 + 160 178  Assemble 100,00 102,10 + 160 178  Assemble 100,00 103,00 145,00 145  Estable 100,00 103,00 145,00 1 103  Estable 100,00 103,00 143,00 1 103  Estable 100,00 103,00 143,00 1 103  Estable 100,00 103,00 103,00 1 103  Estable 100,00 103,00 103,00 103  Estable 100,00 103,00 103,00 103  Estable 100,00 103,00 103,00 103  INTURN 100,00 103,00 103,00 103  INTURN 100,00 103,00 103,00 103,00 103  INTURN 100,00 103,00	11.85 7.85 + 0.52	169.50   179.30   4.50   179.10   189.10   179.10   189.10   179.10   189.10   179.10   189.10   189.10   189.10   189.10   189.20   189.10   189
America Strouth Semiglay biles Semiglay Se	Salanced   Ti.eff   74.88 + 1.75 4.89	PF Service Name   105 NO 105.28 + 2.95 1.50   MK Service Feeds   755 1 76.64 + 2.25 1.70   Mk Service Servic	Cold Cold Cold Cold Cold Cold Cold Cold	Healt   Healt   The   The	Pro SimPos 51 12 5297 - 0.22 Pro ) for Post 5 52.29 52.14 + 0.05 434 Regional Postson Depose 51 102.56 109.00 - 5.78 Managed 103.52 123.54 + 1.05 Poston 50.53 52.18 - 0.13	hall Grade 100.70 117.30 4 60.07 Hallanger! 90.45 99.47 + 1.85 0.97 IN Comm 79.65 60.21 + 2.72 1.30 STANDARD LOT UNIT THEORY BRID 35.33 5.3
ARRIVAYS UNIT TRUST MORES LTD 0177 256 5660 Recall Property # 186.61 107.10 + 0.10 8.31  ALCORPORES DAY MISSUIT DAYS LTD 07452 305 550 Arely recense 02.91 48.64 + 2.48 2.27 boxes Buildes be: 82.14 87.361 + 2.14 4.37	Figh Yield   142.10   140.06   1.2m   5.72	Compress	Recovery #8.00 \$2.65 + 1.07 1.06 Has Answer #2.50 \$7.00 + 2.20 3.06 Securd General #6.50 \$1.00 + 1.00 3.04 -do-Accom #6.50 20.50 25.00 + 5.00 3.00 Sendier Cos \$5.90 71.00 + 0.20 3.01 -do-Accom #6.50 1.07 - 0.00 1.07	MP INVESTMENT MINES  177 152 459  Lawrence Cit Estimate Cit 155 651 162 267 - 1 170 10.06  Estimate Cit 155 651 162 267 - 1 170 10.06  Estimate Cit 155 651 163 267 - 5 20  Citabat Care Cit 157 260 1288 40 - 5 20  Citabat Care Cit 157 260 1288 1087 - 1 108 10.06  Citabat Care Cit 157 260 1288 1087 - 1 108 108  Citabat Care Cit 157 260 1288 1087 - 1 108 108  Research Cit 157 156 155 157 - 0.06  Research Cit 157 156 155 177 - 0.07  Research Cit 157 156 155 177 156 155 177 156 157 157 157 157 157 157 157 157 157 157	MOVAL LIFE FO MARSET XTD   Price   F1720 X 200 G/08   Lineard States   TEXT	Saccount Lie Front Stages   Lie
### DEPT	Employ Grant   1021.01   217.01   + 1.02   0.66   For Content Brit   123.02   127.71   + 0.22   0.02   125.00	Tel Can S 100 2018.0 4 4.50 2.09   CF Am 31 10 205 10 4 1 10 017   CF Am 31 10 205 10 4 1 10 017   CF Am 31 10 205 10 4 1 10 017   CF Am 31 10 205 10 4 1 10 017   CF Am 31 10 205 10 4 1 10 017   CF Am 31 10 205 10 4 1 10 017   CF Am 31 10 205 10 4 1 10 017   CF Am 31 10 205 10 207   CF Am 31 10 207	Sh East Ann.   1952-00   17 900   4 70 112	MATWEST LIMIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD Day 17277 600 200 Johns Eng 17277 600 200 Entre in: 31 5.52 + 1.87 0.76 Ford of Facts in: 99.00 72.77 + 3.65 1.76 Entre in: 99.00 72.77 + 2.25 2.79 UK Gayfe or the 64.47 81.65 + 3.00 5.47	Ribergal London UMPT 1ST Micros LTD   V1205 794 400   11/6 288.70 + 0.20   11/7   Research Growth   191.40   288.70 + 0.20   11/7   Research Growth   127.50   16.40 - 0.40   130   74   25.50   0.30   0.31   12/5   12/	No. Armeters Acc.   10.57   62.24   + 0.52   1.55
Amarigne   Trimer   Amarigne   Trimer   Amarigne   Trimer   Amarigne   Trimer   Amarigne   Trimer   Amarigne   Trimer   Amarigne	COMMUNICATION T TO MANAGE CO LTD 1777-497-5986 28.54 4.51 CODICS 645859; BM FUNDS LTN 0000 528-388 177-80 188.50 + 1.20 2.73 BOOMS 528-388 177-80 188.50 + 1.20 2.73 BOOMS 77-84 60.25 + 2.19 4.57 BOOMS 77-84 60.25 + 2.19 4.57 BOOMS 77-88 80.72 + 1.50 0.51 BOOMS 77-88 80.72 + 1.50 0.51	Incompanies	-66-Accent 886.89 687.75 +18 K3 271  MAN JOHT HAVESTORE LTD  ONES ESSENT  Balanced Fill 9 1494.80 1494.907 - 1.90 2.90  MANDON URT THRUST MERS LTD  OT JO 222 492  Melician Burnicii 163.30 189.007 . 2.89	HERTION FUND METER LTD  Dougleter, ORBO STA SER Decling BEOD AND OTH  Association  54.65 57.82 - 0.22  - 05-702000 54.85 54.85 54.87 - 0.22  - 05-702000 54.86 54.87 - 0.22  - 05-702000 54.86 54.87 + 0.20 54.7	ST LAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD SHAT 2007 GROUP File Earl See  171 SD 181 JD - 0.23 6.56 File See Trop See 60.50 771 50 1171 JD 177 File See Trop See 60.50 771 50 1171 JD 177 File See Trop See 60.50 771 50 1171 JD 177 File See Trop See 60.50 771 50 1171 JD 177 File See Trop See 60.50 771 50 1171 JD 177 File See Trop See 60.50 771 JD 177 File Se	77 Aces Exists (LCC) 2019 2019 2017 - CLOS CLOS CLOS CLOS CLOS CLOS CLOS CLOS
Person Vision 680.00 708.507 + 22.20 1,80   Tomak A San 81.25 88.100 + 1.70 3.54   Santile Cas 204.00 219.00 + 4.86 1,50   2nd Dramber Cas 194.40 207.40 + 4.86 8.96   Rectionly 174.10 104.10 + 9.30 1.25   Mark Main S. Chity 180.00 486.507 + 1.80 0.18   Tomake Cas 204.00 486.507 + 1.80 0.18    Tomake Cas 204.00 486.507 + 1.80 0.18   Tomake Cas 204.00 486.507 + 1.80	CO-OP PERSION FOR UT MORE LTD 0177 38 Aug. Build Bell 1886.00 1894.407 -18.30 3.49 CREDIT SURRES BY FOR AND LTD	IN General Ace 19-432 57420 + 3.40 1.54 1.54 1.55 1.55 1.55 1.55 1.55 1.55	G SOCIETY	Section   Sect	INTEGRAL   125.30   101.30   4.46	TURN ALLIANCE LIMIT TOT NEEDT LTD Suprime: 07277 227 200 Dealing 07277 050 300 Dealing 07277 227 200 Dealing 07277 050 300 Dealing 07277 227 200 Dealing 07277 050 300
Francis (1979 Fam. 70.39 73.35 - 0.62 144 155-170 Fam. 70.39 73.35 154 155-170 Fam. 70.39 73.35 154 155-170 Fam. 70.39 73.35 75.30 7	111.50 1116.00 + 1.19 1.15 1.55 1816.00 + 1.19 1.15 1816.00 + 1.19 1.15 1816.00 + 1.19 1.15 1816.00 + 1.17 50 4.15	## inch   18.4   18.4   18.4   18.4   18.4   18.5   17	oithin 2 years by the windfall lougester, Syllifol & West and helding Society the east wholfoll payout to is described teaching	BUTCHESSE FROM UNIT TRACE LTD  OFFI 202 SEP  High beams of 468 S2.67 + 113 611  MA Count. TALKE SP169 - 0.20 2.67  BUTCHESSE LEBERT TET BEHAVARITS  OFFICE AND 204	BAYE & PRODUCE GROUP  Came Cella INT with Immersion CRID 727 776  Area Surfa Co. 151.70 161 40 - 2.50  Cultur Cristo Co. 151.70 161 40 - 2.50  Cultur Cristo Co. 151.70 161 40 - 2.50  Cultur Cristo Co. 151.70 171.70 18.60  China Cristo Co. 151.70 171.70 18.60  China Cristo Co. 151.70 171.70 18.60  China Cristo Co. 151.70 171.70 18.60  Earn Sank Co. 171.70 171.70 171.70 18.70  Earn Sank Co. 171.70 171.70 181.70  Earn Sank Co. 171.70 171.70  Earn Sank Co.	Figure 2000   5023   50231   1 4 4 6 6 7 8 1
Bends Cal 11/25 20/25 + 0.00 1/25 bird State Cal 11/25 20/25 + 0.00 1/25 bird State Cal 11/25 20/25 2	DESCRIPTION OF THE SAME OTT 37 MIS DIS NO 221.89 241.70† + 2.40 3.14  DALE FOR LINT NINN LTD 013-0-07-04	Contact Francis 19.57 19.57 1.50 1.50 1.50 1.50 1.50 1.50 1.50 1.50	TOP TIPS  WHAT IS LEFT?  In Building Society Monauco, REEPHONE	17-37   164-78   5-22   2-77   164-78	Fineral Sec. III. 76 363.00 + 7.70 D74 Sec. 10 10:10 - 0.50 Sec. 10:00 Sec. 1	Corp Bid & Gh Acc   101.55   101.05t + 4.37   7.36     Earspean
NAME OF SPECIAL PART   NAME OF STATE	EXPERIENCE LINET TOT MOTHER (TD ) 8345 080 588	Accessed 281.54 + 4.27 6.59	50 661 ILDING SOCIETY BONANZA	OLD MATTINE, ALMO MINECO LTD OLZS6 708 880	Indicational	SUC Pencent Funds Anima 6 Consent to 12-Dr 13-D01 + 0.09 1.09 European Empt
Cert & Inc bas Excipation folial tease Excipation foli	Table   Tabl	The Parist Run 26.25 26.26 + 1.25 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.0	Management Limited	0 Lord PUB Called  Band State Inc.	SCHEDOLER UND TRUSTS & 170 Citic 10000 526 525 664: 0800 525 640 Retall Feath American 384.08 475.507 + 1147 0.59 Engran Gall 51.22 86.647 + 184. 0.78 Engran Gall 61.22 86.647 + 184. 0.78 Engran Gall 71.21 86.647 + 184. 0.78 Engran Gall 71.11 10555 + 0.85 0.10 Fiz Existen 68h MG. 11 10555 + 0.85 0.10 Engran 100.11 112;11 - 0.85 Gall 67-bad file 52.85 0.571 + 0.45 772 Sphat Dond # 48.45 50.86 - 0.14 6.22	Descriptioner
BESS	Benezia Gath   288.20   3770   + 280   104   40   508   Ca   52.80   37410   - 104   0.14   48   450   62.20   457.80   + 1.80   0.14   48   458   637.30   274.40   + 1.80   0.14   48   458   638   273.0   274.40   + 1.80   0.24   127.40   0.17   32.00   174.20	American		Lalia And Corp bits   91.07   86.22   + 1.31   Aut   UK. All 5.1 Men to: 7.27   74.44   + 2.22   2.50   Broker Itral Tradis   82.40   86.134   - 1.80   Broker Itral Tradis   82.40   86.134   - 1.80   Broker Itral Tradis   72.85   77.91   - 1.51     Broker Itral Tradis   72.85   16.55   - 0.81   Attenth Glober Fight   84.40   82.30   - 0.81     EAW Bitt Broker to: 14.20   18.32   - 1.76     Eaw Bitt Broker to: 49.27   18.32   + 1.76     Eaw Bitter Itral Tradis   17.80   17.20   1.90   0.45   Eaw Bitter Itral Tradis   17.20   1.90   0.45   Eaw Bitter Itral Tradis   17.20   Ea	-do-Access # 54.20 # 62.30 - 0.17 6.27 Should leven bilds # 52.00 # 52.54 + 0.59 do-Access # 52.12 # 65.59 + 0.59 + 0.59 do-Access # 52.12 # 65.59 + 0.59 do-Access # 62.10 # 64.10 # 52.52 # 45. do-Access # 62.67 # 380.52 # 807 - 807 do-Access # 52.64 # 58.09 - 2.81 # 52.00 # 52	Berngers   125.59   1.28.77   1.26   0.34
Front 1 (77 M) (18, 107 + 2,00 0.2) F Last Galf. Acc 250, 20 320 + 153 0.25 Eta Galf. Acc 250, 20 320 + 153 0.25 Eta Galf. Acc 250, 20 4 150 0.25 Eta Galf. Acc 250 0.25 Eta Galf. Acc 250 0.25 Eta Galf. Acc 250 0.25 0.25 0.25 0.25 0.25 0.25 0.25	Establica: 1/100 mpart LTD  OTT 372 7251  Endeance FI	Adv Accom 778 2 778.53 + 22.95 0.65   Accom 177 10 32.73 + 1.05   Accom 177 10 32.73 +	In Square 8.553 9107 1 3.44 European 105.80 142.90 1 7 3.44 European 105.80 105.90 1 2.90 1 2.90 1 7 3.44 European 105.90 1 105.90 1 2.90 1 2.90 1 105.90 1 2.90 1 105.90 1 2.90 1 105.90 1 2.90 1 105.90 1 2.90 1 105.90 1 2.90 1 105.	Processor Form Sec. 90.30   12.55   10	-do-Accidio 33.55 35.77 + 0.91 Sentier Cis 35.66 359.70 + 6.67 04.1 Strainge Inc 102.39 110.19 + 2.01 2.79 110.50	Section   Sect
American Growth 128,500 149,500 127,600 128,50	All funits Tricking 152.95 53.77 + 1.99 3.19 ind Ground 150.00 144.25 - 6.22 0.65 Nuch American 150.57 152.69 + 2.55 1.67 Pullan 150.59 150.59 150.69 + 2.55 1.67 Pullan 150.59 1	Acceptant Goods   Mark   185   9.85   1.55	MANUTAMEN MANUFERENT CD LTD	Japan Cim \$12.7 9.22 - 1.00 Mth Amer Cim 719.00 250.00 + 1.00		TO FUND MAMAGERS LEATED  O'SI 567 1018 422 74 444.59 = 1122 2.27  Employen 75 90 79 50 + 0.45 1.30  TEMPLETUM UNIT TRUST MEDS LED
Types Sample   Types	Summer Cost In: 202.77   347.57   1 14   2.96     Summer Cost Anc.	The First Dating, 071 965 0023   10277 986 422   10277 986 422   10277 986 422   10277 986 422   10277 986 422   10277 986 1272   10277 986	277.59   292.597   100		Common   C	0131 469 4000 Bish Groute bit: 238,14 254 70 + 2,39 2.22 Bish Barrott bit: 197 99 217 5 + 2,17 3.25 Bish Barrott bit: 197 99 217 5 + 2,17 3.25 Bish Barrott bit: 197 99 217 5 + 2,17 3.25 Bish Barrott bit: 197 99 217 5 + 2,17 3.25 Bish Barrott bit: 197 99 217 5 + 2,17 3.25 Bish Barrott bit: 197 97 144 197 145 Bish Bish Bish Bish Bish Bish Bish Bish
PHT/Amed. RAMD MERS ATD  BMT 125 8050  BMT 125 8050  BMT 125 8050  144 99  157 23 + 645 153  158 157 25 158  168 157 25 158  168 157 25 158  168 157 25 158  168 157 25 158  168 157 25 158  168 158 158	ADELTY INSCRIPTION STREET	100.00   1	18.25	To Employ Cos 261 33 200 MB + 0 14 170 MB   1	00111001 AMPLIATE UT MISSES LTU 0141 201 2200 Equity Institute	Austribe 18
	Bend Franks indi Bond 27 47 24.46 - 8.19 5.47 indi Bond 27.19 28.61 + 0.12 5.72 indi Bond 27.19 28.61 + 0.12 5.72 indi Bond 27.19 28.61 + 0.12 5.72 indi Bonose Bond 13.40 143.40 + 3.20 5.47 indi Bonose Bond 13.40 143.40 + 3.20 5.47 indi Bond 25.61 34.68 + 0.94 2.16 indi Bond 25.61 34.68 + 0.94 2.16 indi Bond 12.61 34.68 + 0.94 2.16 indi Bond 12	Equation   127.41   145.101 + 1.84   3.25	Section	-e- 2020   105 H   177.55 - 7.54   0.26   127   128	130.23   147.04   + 2.73   10.00	01277 890 398   11828   125.45 + 3.90 4.84   18 Equity Impair 9   11828   125.45 + 3.90 4.84   15 Equity Impair 9   105.89   113.49 + 3.00 2.81   15 Extrapolar   176.39   13.49 + 3.00 2.81   15 Extrapolar   176.39   13.49 + 3.00 2.81   15 Extrapolar   176.39   176.39 + 1 14 1.24   12 Extrapolar   176.39
CHI LINT NAMESCRIC LTD  ONG 827 5560  Striken  195.00	Types   Student Cos   27.28   29.05   - 1.21   20.05   24.00   25.05   24.00   25.05	-des-Access 122.70 131.52 + 1.25 1.39   Income	-dx- Accomm 517 10 693.20 +77 50 632 10 57 10 59 50 57 + 69 40 12 10 59 69 57 + 69 40 12 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	OTIF1 201 39277 American 135.79 144 651 - 3.39 European 12.55 35 47 - 110 European 12.55 35 47 - 110 European 12.55 35 47 - 120 European 12.55 35 47 - 120 European 12.54 500 - 132 EUR Dec Europe 145 500 - 135 155 Europe 147 155 155 155 155 155 155 155 155 155 15	Supples   10.33   11.517   1.45   1.4     Approx   55.24   59.56   2.65   0.13     Approx   10.14   10.54   1.30     Fir Del   10.14   10.54   1.30     Fir Del   10.15     Fi	104.68   104.68   104.68   105.703
de-incombat 1916 1739 + 331 38 1	Figure 1 17.06 117.06 + 210 5 60  RESHIP PRIVATE FIRM MEANT LTD  0771 814 870	Danting 0/9304 61/110  Accumulation 1st 27 E5 25.38 + 0.95 2.99  MARKHOOS 1647 TRISST MERS 1/TO  Danting 0/1277 227 300 Dealing 0/1277 290 200  High Produle 100.30 100.70 + 0.60 6.55  Microsoft Pale 247.27 229.90 + 1.90 2.33  Microsoft Pale 247.27 229.90 + 1.90 2.33  Microsoft Pale 247.27 229.90 + 0.90 2.33  Microsoft Pale	SECURIO DELL'ATTRICT MODELL'IN SECURIO 665 TEXTO DE COLC ON 128 Politicata 77.81 81-81 - 144 258 17.81 81-84 - 152 259 17.81 81-84 259 17.81 81 81 81 81 81 81 81 81 81 81 81 81 8	Fand of French Act 1942.6 204.71 - 1.88 0.59 Fand of French Act 1942.8 206.22 - 1.99 0.59 Fagle Roome # 56.29 56.15 + 0.05 5.59 Fadoramics # 67.32 50.24 - 0.65 5.99 Fadoramics # 67.32 50.24 - 0.65 5.99 Fadoramics # 67.32 50.24	SECONTIEN WATURAL WAY 400FIS LTD	Périg State de la Capacida del Capacida de la Capacida de la Capacida del Capacida de la Capacida del Capacida del Capacida de la Capacida del C
CAPEL-CURE MYTRS UT MIGHT LTD 5165 827 7433 Emp 0167 827 7433 Dig 0161 831 7455	Cast Printer (250 144.50 1 42.0	IS Symbol Case   1942.57   144.17   145	de James 1550 1688 + 2.10 6.03 1715: 100 Ac. 7214 1753 1 254 229 239 1715: 100 Ac. 7214 1553 1 254 229 239 188 74 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	2750 28377 + 520 455   In Let 200 - 440   324.00 408.00 - 440   325.00 475.00 - 450   325.00 475.00 - 450   325.00 475.00   325.00   325.00   325.00   325.00   325.00   325.00   325.	### 1780 6100   16 Equity to 1877 70	WICH, WICH USET TRUST MIGRIS LTD
- 40- Access	US Smaller Cas 411.30 403.40 - 1.00 . For Footer & Build-valler son Collins	ind Part Ind 98.19 105.007 - 0.51 0.05   -do-Account 655.70 987 for +15.70 4.19   Global Inch 249.53 298.007 - 4.51   Japan Brooms 66.53 94.79 - 1.18	, pensor 130,00° 146,00° + 4,00° 134, ° Embyega Growth 130,00° 138,70° - 178 0,01°   5	Penil Fred Int 45.53 48.437 + 0.09 717   Taxonory 89.59 95.31 + 0.41 2.28   *,	Mh Amarican Inc 339 60 161 10 + 370 0.20 - -db- Accepts 175.70 399 50 + 4 00 0.20	# Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ End. Charge.

67: 11 24: 161 45: 161 40: 31,1 17: 19: 174 18: 182 41: 182 42: 182 43: 183 44: 183 44: 183 45: 183 47: 183 48: 183

等23年至1年2月19日 1428年 1500年 1645年 1550年 1550

THE STATE OF THE S

207 + 127 +

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 21 1996

pheailloci phation i Betterwat

新27/2000年的市场中的大型的中国中央

512 Augumt 656 Hyder Cm Ps 96 Hyder Cm Ps 511 Bernen Treat 2375 South Scalict 489 South West 529- Thamest 529 Unit Universit 529 Unit Universit 529 Versiter

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. BUILDING & CONSTRUCT Rolex Oyster. survive even the shocks on this page. 05 34 35 34 2007;+ 61 340 -88 88 127; 47; 228 487;-1507;+ 75; 75;+ 76;+ 187° 81 Abou Good 3 Th-Albano Ross 9 Th-Albano Ross 170° 8 Th-Albano Ross 180° 8 Th-Albano Ross の ( ) 200 ( ) できたい Privident Remains of the World Privilence of the World 100 WE - 100 277 AMY
189 APV
189 APV
187 AEP
187 AEP
188 APV
188 AP the phone BETAILERS, FOOD 当是各名的思想的是中华的 医皮肤多种的 1004 - 7. 06
2004 - 7. 11
2005 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12
2007 - 12 1431\*\* EET Aus Aug.

1231\*\* PED Are Geor

123\*\* 99 Angustan

124\*\* 99 Angustan

125\*\* 99 Angustan

126\*\* 99 Angustan

127\*\* 99 Angustan

128\*\* 99 Constitution

129 111\*\* Car lacor

129 111\*\* Car lacor

129 111\*\* Car lacor

129 129 Constitution

120 First Constitution

120 First Constitution

120 First Constitution

121 121 Constitution

122 123 Independent

123 124 Constitution

124 125 Constitution

125 125 Consti THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE 

BRITISH FUNDS

87°4 1137± 165 56°4 100°5 100°5 100°5 100°5 100°5 

4°-1°-Ы°-

120°°° 100°°° 120°°° 122°°°

113's 187's 117's 177's 177's 1874 1874 1874 1874 1874

+ 's + 's - 's - 's

Equities give back some gains

RACING: VERSATILE PERFORMER CAN DEFUSE UNGUIDED MISSILE'S ATTEMPT AT ASCOT DOUBLE

## Inchcailloch puts reputation to test in Betterware Cup

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT.

THEY do not come much more down to earth than Jeff King whose plain speaking has been the hallmark of a career which saw him ride more than 700 winners over jumps before turning successfully to training. Yesterday was no exception.

I have always thought Inchcailloch was a decent horse and if he can't win off 10st 51b then he's nothing out of the ordinary," he said, looking ahead to the Better-ware Cup, a handicap chase, the feature race at Ascot today.

The remarkable Inchcailloch, who only two months ago won the Cesarewitch at Newmarket, has followed up with three chasing successes in the past six weeks, which have shown the seven-year-old to be one of the most progressive jumpers in training. "He's not beaten a lot but he couldn't have done it any better." King added. "At Ascot we'll find out whether he's the real thing."

In a competitive race, It is difficult to rule out most of his rivals with confidence, although Travado, Bradbury Star and Strong Medicine look up against it. Unguided Missile, last year's winner, has plenty of weight but is classy and remains a Cheltenham Gold Cup hope. Horses who run well in the Hennessy have a fine record in this race and Dextra Dove, a good fifth to Coome Hill at Newbury, is well treated on his early-

season form last year. Major Bell, who, along with Unguided Missile and Dextra Dove, will guarantee a strong pace, is a progressive secondseason chaser who ran partic-ularly well behind Strong Promise here last month. He will appreciate the extra halfmile and ground conditions. Turning Trix is well weighted, judged on his victory at

#### 

Nap: MIM-LOU-AND (2.35 Uttoxeter) Next best: Inchcailloch (2.20 Ascot)

Newcastle three weeks ago, but may just lack the class. Go Ballistic, an Ascot specialist, finished 312 lengths behind Inchcailloch here last time and is 10lb better off, so is weighted to reverse the form. He is best coming from off the pace and should have the race to suit, but his stable is out of

Although Incheailloch has been on the go since June, he does not appear to be nearing the end of his tether and

ground conditions remain in his favour. King's matter-offact approach makes him the last person to overrate his horses but he considered the King George VI Chase for his stable star last month. A Boxing Day appointment at Kempton may have to wait a year; in the meantime, Incheailloch can complete a memorable double for King, who rode What A Buck to victory in this race 20 years'

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, Tim Easterby seems set for a profitable afternoon, Simply Dashing has looked one of the best novice chasers this season and can win his fourth race over fences at Ascot (12.35), while at Haydock Shining Edge (1.20) and Good Vibes (2.30) hold solid claims.

The Uttoxeter card looks tricky, although I like Mim-Lou-And (2.35), who should go off at rewarding odds. Henrietta Knight's consistent fouryear-old has found two miles on the sharp side this term and should relish today's extra distance and easier surface.

At Lingfield, Silver Shred (1.35) looks a class above her rivals on her third to Castle Sweep in the Tote Silver Trophy at Chepstow and can give away the weight.



Unguided Missile seeks a second win in the Betterware Cup at Ascot today

## Trainglot suited by ground

BBCI

1.10: Make A Stand is the clear form choice after his front-running success in the William Hill Hurdle at Sandown a fortnight ago and should oblige if he runs to within a stone of that effort. Bowcliffe Court won a maiden hurdle at Chepstow but may not be suited by these faster conditions.

Supreme Charm is stepping back from three miles and will find it difficult keeping tabs on the favourite. Bahamian Sunshine and

UTIOXOTOF

Coing: soft

1.10 (2m hole) 1, Tajeno Gold (R Dunwoody,

9.2): 2, Moster Tribe (10-1): 3, Most Equal (81). Saint Cell 11-4 (av. 7 nor. NP: Albernine.

1). 19(1 P Bradley, Toler SS, 40; 22:30, 22:30,

DF 513:90 CSF 538:34. Tribest 5116 43.

1-40 (2m 4f ch.) 1, Oban (G Bradley, 100-30

law), 2, Surset And Vine (4-1); 3, Major Losk (14-1) 7 no. (8, 5). Miss H Kingfal. Toler 23 40; 51.70, 52:00. DF: 53:50. CSF 515:80

2.10 (2m hole) 1, Stonecular (R Hughes, 8-4 fast): 2, 809 (Ballensey (7-1); 3, Host Co.

16-1). 14 ran. NFT Narrigary. Northam Diamond Nk. 12, M Chemnon. Tots: 52:40; 51:10, 53:50, 53:20. DF: 513:80. Trice: 57:00.

CSF 518:82.

2.40 (2m ch.) 1, Super Testics (P Herriey.

CSF 218 22.

2.40 (2m ch 1, Super Taccics (\*\*) Herriey, 8-2; 2, Master Cody (5-4 say; 3, Master Cody (5-4 say; 3, Master Mission (3-1), 4 ran, 3, 134, 8 Almer, Tota; 55 00, DF, 25, 20, CSF, 210 10.

3.10 (3m 2/ ch) 1, Coverdals Laste (Mr P Marray, 9-2); 2, Masters Laggacy (8-1); 3, Be Brave (33-1), Ocean Lasder 5-2 than (2 ran, 5, 134, Mrs S Smith, Tota; 24-20, 42-0, 22-0, 22-0, 25-7, 80, DF, 217-70, Tria; 2155-50, CSF 234 55, Tircast 2591-54

CSF 524 55. Tircest 52931.54
3.40 (2m 4f 110/g) follo) 1, Agistment (Fl
Dunwoody, 5-2; Times Private Handicapper's top rating), 2, Mighty Moss (4-8 lay); 3,
Barton Ward (25-1), 13 an. NR: Beggare
Benguet, Mertert Mayhem, 14, 8, J Fizzperald, Tole; 53 10; Ef 40, £1 00; £3,50 DF:
£1.30, Tro; £7.70, CSF; £4.57.
Dissolonic £17.90.
Dissolonic £17.90.
Cusationic £17.90.

Ē,

Quadpot £17.90.

Pick up the phone

PICK UP A £10° FREE BET

FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS

staking £25 or more using Switch or Delta bank or building society debit cards.

Ragian William Ing Wengeling

3 miles, Ascot 2.20pm, Live on BBC TV.

10/3 Unguided Missile

7/2 inchcailloch

4/1 Major Bell .

5/1 Dextra Dove

6/1 Go Ballistic **6/1** Turning Trix

25/1 Strong Medicine

LATEST ODDS ON WIlliam Hill TV YEXT

• Teletext on CH4 P601/602/603

on the Betterware Cup. Handicap
Chase today. (Please place your bet

RING TODAY BET TODAY

0800 44 40 40

\*Free bet is a £10 Straight Forecast

on the Betterware Cup. Handicap

and make your free bet selection within the same call.)

33/1 Bradbury Star

TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT PREEPHONE 0800 289 892 WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLY.
PRICES SUBJECT TO PLUCTUATION.

16/1 Travado



from the Flat but may appreciate a stiffer test of stamina.

ON TELEVISION

1.45: Pleasure Shared returns to hurdling after falling over

Going: good to soft 12.50 (2m 1f hole) 1, Star Selection (E. Husband, 11-2); 2, Mag Pat (16-1); 3, Deleasans (B-2), Night City 2-1 Sts. 12 cm. Nf. Supreme Chem. 12, 6, J Macde Toe-tr. 00; 22.50 (22.00, 21.50, DF: 1211.40, Tric. 120.00, CSF, 182.00.

27.00: \$2.50, \$2.00, \$1.80, DF: \$21.40, This: \$10.90, \$75, \$22.00.

1.20 (2m. 11 hole) 1, Mid Day Chamer (J Cabornie, \$-0); 2, Total Joy (4-1); 3, Kavasingo (50-1) Deur 10-11 Hay 10 am NF: Fairy Knight, If sthebusiness, 10t. 41, P Webber, Totar \$2.50, \$1.10, \$2.00, \$8.40.

DF: \$9.90, This: \$9.00, \$25, \$1.10, \$2.00, \$8.40.

DF: \$9.90, This: \$9.00, \$25, \$1.20, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$30; \$2, \$2.00 the 1, Marifer (D Misint, 100-30); 2, \$2.00 the 1, Marifer (D Misint, 100-30); 2, \$2.00 the 1, \$3, \$5.00 the Franco (50-1), Urban Lay 2-1 fav 9 ran, \$24, \$7, \$7, \$1.00, \$2.00, \$2.00, \$2.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.00, \$1.40, \$1.70, \$1.40, \$1.

2376.31.
2.50 (2m 1f Indie) 1, My Misn in Dundelik (E Murphy, 2-1); 2, Fleet Cacket (Events Rul; 3, Scotlish Wedding (5-1). 12 ran. NPt. Persisn Butterfly. Nk, 11t. B Curley. Total: 23.50; 52.90, 51.90, 57.70. DP: £4.40. Tito: 51.240. CSP: £5.28. Winner bought in for 5,400gns. 3.20 (2m 1f 110)d ch) 1, Indian Tracker (C Maucis, 5-1); 2, Brogden Lady (5-4 law); 3,

Hereford

and, according to the BHB official ratings, is more than a stone better over hurdles than his rivals. That may flatter him and in a tricky

race I prefer Trainglot. He disappointed behind What A Question on easy ground at Newbury last time but had previously beaten the Irish raider on a faster surface at Wetherby. Provided the ground remains fast. Biaze Away, who will relish the step up in trip, looks sure

2,15.40. Het. 25.7.10 Ger. 2,15.79.
2,50 (2m. 11 hafe) 1, Hay Denos (N. Wilsensson, 5-2 fay; Richard Evans's nap); 2, Betschhorn Bard (3-1); 3, Salley (4-1), 8 far. 14; 9, P. Hobbs. Tota: 22,50; 22,00, £1.10, £1.50. DF: £3.50. CSF: £1.64. Theast £28.06.

E28.06.
Jackpot: not won (pool of £2,946.07 certied foreard to Ascot today).
Placepot: £120.00. Quadpot: £22.10.

CSF: £7 78. 2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Brumon (D.J. Molfatt, 14-1); 2, Kerno Sebo (6-4 lav); 3, Here Comes Herble (9-2), 7 ran, NP Innocatr George, 51, 13 D Molfatt, Tota: £14.20; £3.9, £2.60 (2F: £13.10, CSF: £32.80, Tricest, £30.74.

2.30 (2m 41 10)4 India) 1, Precipice Run (G Cshill, 16-1); 2, Yacht Club (B-1); 3, Corbisu 6-1), Blenc Seing 9-2 is 9, 9 nn, NR, Tough Character, 31, 2 J Barkett, Toter 225.80; 23.50, 23.00, £1.80 DF 22.280 The £107.10. CSF. £126.95 Tricest £880.85

Placepot £42.90. Ousdpot £37.50.

Oling standard

11.45 (Im 2i) 1, Kackvick (A McGlone, S-1):
2, Sapphire Son (20-1): 13, Bekers Doughter
(7-1); 13, Marsaber (12-1) Harloquin Walk 3-1
isv 14 ran 31, 114. P Hedger Tote 68,00:
22-40, E14.90, Mansaber (130) Bakers
Daughter (10,60, 0F: £29.30 CSF. £50.68
Tric: Kackvick, Sapphire Son, Bekers Daughter
E03.60, Trictast: Nadwick, Sapphire Son,
Marsaber £223.45; Kadwick, Sapphire Son,
Bakars Daughter £326.56
12.15 (1m 1, 2) Zimit (S Sanders, S-1), 2

Benara Daugmer E220-26 12.15 (tm) 1, Zmini (S Sanders, 5-1), 2. Nghi Scopite (4-8 lay); 3, Hever Golf Mover (11-2) 10 san. Hd, 11/4, J Toller, Toler 28.60; 51.50, 61.30, 61.30, DF, 25.40 Trio £10.70. CSF £9.06.

CSF 29 06.
12.45 [Jm 4f] 1, Zuno Flyer (Mrs A Perrett, 16-1); 2, Smiled (9-2); 3, Zehid (100-30 far).
12 ran. Sh hd, 11 A Moore Fote £32.30; 57.10, £14.40, £140, £100 DF 957.10 Incr

E114 40. CSF '822-28. 1.15 (S) 1, Heavenly Miss (S Sanders, 8-1); 2, Malbourné Princess (11-4); 3, Thresplay (6-4 j.-bay), Eager To Piesse 9-4 j.-bay 5 ran, NRF Fights 21, 1841. J Bridger. Tore: 25.80; 22,10, 21.70 DF: £18.80. CSF: £27.55

22.10, 51 for the Teach Care 122.23 1.45 (8) 1, Bold Effort (W Ryan, 10-1); 2, Step On Degas (11-1); 3, Sharp Imp (20-1) Migas 41 ins. 14 rah. 19.4 nk. K. Cunnangham-Brown, Tate: \$12.30; 54.20, 52.30, 62.30, OF \$42.40, Tac: \$128.60, CSF \$103.24, Tricsar \$1,220.12

21,220.12
2.15 (1m 2) 1, Father Den (D Hotland, 4-1):
2. Ben Garin (16-1); 3, Shenghai Li (8-1):
Absolutalysturning 3-1 fav. 14 tan. Hd, 141
Miss G Keldensey Teas. 23-50; 21-70. 23-20,
22-90. DF: £16-30 Tro £71-70. CSF £64-52.
Tricast Quifilia.
2. 45 (1m) 1. Feether Bed (D R McCabe, 10030); 2. Around Fora Alliss (8-1); 3, Lochiess
(5-1) Rolley Spirmey 5-2 fav. (Dran. 3); 34-M
Jervis. Totar £3-90; 22-10, £3-20, £1-50. DF.
(231 70. Thir £4.5 60. CSF. £31-27.
3-15 (76) 1. Speedy Classic (A Clark, 12-1).

Lingfield Park

Hexham

### HAYDOCK PARK

12.15 Parrot's Hill. 12.45 Slotematique. 1.20 Merchant Ming. 1.55 Pink Gin. 2.30 Alzuku. 3.00 General Command. 3.30 Strong Mint.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.15 WIRRAL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O; £2,955; 2m) (14 runners)

40.	-	minum many first terraneral
1	0	ARABIAN HEIGHTS 18 J Medies 10-12 E Hyshend (3) 7 BAASSE 15 J Notion 10-12 W Fry 9
2	64	BAASM 15 J Notion 10-12 W Fry 9
3	2	FALCON'S FLAME BE Was J Remeden 10-12 J Realign &
4	0	PISH KINSMAN 31 B Yarday 10-12 W McFaringd
- 6	0	JOE SHAW 21 Mrs M Resolvy 10-12 P Minut
- 8	0	MR GOLD 16 J. Jefferson 10-12 R Guest 7
7		PALAMON 156F J White 10-12 P Curbary
8	3	PALAMON 1886 J Wise 10-12
ē		SHARP COMMAND 16F P Exclus 10-12
10		SHU GAA 76F O Sherwood 10-12 J Oaborns
11		TAGATAY 29F M Connector 10-12 E Collegian (3) THORNTOLIN ESTATE 28 M Todaysiar 70-12 A 3 Smith 7
12	044	THORNTOLIN ESTATE 28 M Todaynay 10-12 A 9 Smith 7
13	50	WHAT JIM WANTS 21 JJ O'Neil 10-12 8
14	8	WORTH THE BILL 31 F Jordan 10-12 S Wymns .
9-4 Fa	loon's	Flacos, 3-1 Shei San, 4-1 Parent's HEL 6-1 Jon Shen, 5-1 others

#### 12.45 SOUTHPORT MOVICES CHASE

90	TUV:	ניף וויב
1	10/1	OAT COUTURE 21 (C.S.S) (C) I Lungo 5-11-5 If Gues BLACK SROOK 14 M Hampsond 7-11-0
2	. 5	BLACK BROOK 14 M Hampsond 7-11-0 P Niser
3	112/	CARUBOO GOLD 968 (F.G.S) K Barley 7-11-0 J Rathur
4	P-34	SLOTAMATEQUE 10 (BF.F) 6 Rictords 7-11-0 A Dobbin
5	100	CARIBOO GOLD 968 (F.G.S) K Basiny 7-11-0 J Relitor SLOTAMATROLE 10 (BF.F) G Ricturus 7-11-0 A Dobbin SPRINAKER 24 (S) N Gassing 6-11-0 J Dubomo
		um, 3-1 Caribos Gold, 7-2 Sickeralique, 6-1 others

1.20 WIDNES HANDICAP HUPICLE (£3,485, 2m) (7) 1 1-36 MARCHANT RIME 21 (CD,6,5) M Harmond 4-12-0 P Niven 97
2 :10-0 ELATION 14 (D,F,6) 6 Richards 4-11-3 ... A Dobbin 57
2 :10-1 ELATION 14 (D,F,6) 6 Richards 4-11-3 ... A Dobbin 57
2 :10-1 NEW SON 7 (D,F) 5 Endings 5-11-0 ... K Gande 68
5 :451 SERWING EDGE 10 (D,F,6) 7 Existry 4-10-0 ... J Osborne 97
5 :50-8 WATCH MY UPS 57 (D,5) M Tomplates 4-10-0 ... B Wyons 7 :364/ ALBERTITO 558 (CD,6,5) R Hollinsheed 9-10-0 ... 8 Wyons -9-4 Shining Edge, 3-1 New Ien, 4-1 Marchest Micq, 6-1 Elabon, 6-1 offers.

HEXIDAIN
Gioing: good for eatilities (G Cahill, 8-1); 2.
Beade (16-1); 3, Fassen (1-2 law) 11 ran. NR.
Dana Point, Methun 61, 21 W McKsown Tole
63.50; 62.0, 63.00, 61 00 DF: 630.80 Toc
644.40 CSF: 693.70
1.00 (3m hole); 1, Peperising (A Dobbin, 3-1);
2, Syandbleter (5-4 fay); 3, Boston Man (33-1)
15 fan. NR: Pebble Beach. 31, 231 G
Richards Tole: 63.30; 62.70, 67.10, 632.90,
DF: 63.50. Tito: 640.80, CSF 68.08,
1.30 (2m 4/110)d ch) 1, Len De Faraille (P
Niven, 4-1); 2, Cabic Glent (4-5 fay), 3, Sieric
(18-1), 8 ran. NR: Bold Account, Five Flags,
World Without End. 5, 394. J Quinn. Tole
64.50; 62.40, 61.10, DF: 65.10, Trio: 63.90,
CSF: 67.78
2.00 (2m hole) 1, Brumon (D J Motatat, 14-1); 1.55 ST HELENS HANDICAP CHASE (£6,684: 4m 110yd) (7)

1 /P-1 CHRISTMAS SORSE 21 (D,B,S) N Service 18-11-10 7 (A-1) CHROSTANAS GUNES 27 (D,E,S) N Sequent 70-71-70

2 (A-P URARIIS COLLONESES 14 (B,E) J Fizzyanid 10-11-8 A Doubbin - 3-45 DIAMOND FIRST 4 (F,E,S) J McCennochis 11-10-13 S Wynns 98

4 R32- FIRK GN 330 (F,E,S) M Hearmand 9-10-11 .... P Sivon 99

5 13-6 CHRSF RASER 14 (S) N Teiston-Davies 7-10-8 D Endywaier 68

5 2332 PAPPE STAR 9 (F) M Maggridge 9-10-0 ... R Gosts 97

7 4440 CUDXAL CROSSETT 11 E Caine 71-10-0 .... S Taylor (S) 60 5-2 Christmas Gorse, 7-2 Phyl. Get, 5-1 Chief Roger, 6-1 Unious Coffonges, 7-1 Paper Star, 8-1 Diamond Fost, 100-1 Quotali Crossest.

2.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,025; 2m) (7) 

6-4 Good Woos, 2-1 Alzulu, 7-2 Pantland Squire, 5-1 Galen, 16-1 others.

2107.10. CSF. P.126.95 Tricest: £580.85
3.00 (Sm. 11 ch) 1. Off The Bru (Mr M Bradburne, 5-1); 2, Geta Weiser (7-1); 3. Road By The River (3-1) Westwell Boy 11-8 fav. 7 ran NR\* Humicane Anchew. 81, 141. Mars 5 Bradburne. Tota: £8.40; £3.30, £1 60 DF. 522.90. CSF. £43.27. Tricest £1.38 85.
3.30 (2m. flat) 1, Bobby Gmart (P Niven, 5-1); 2, Magpile Methody (5-1); 3. Roman Outlew (16-1) Para Ught 9-4 fav. 18 ran. NR: Royal Spruce 239, 11 C Grant Tota: £11.30; £3.80, £1.80, £10.90 DF. £34.90 Tro. £135.70 CSF. £60 £8. 3.00 BOSTON PIT HANDICAP CHASE

1 511- VALIANT WARRIOR 284 (CD.F.S.S) M Hammond 8-11-12 P Non 2 2-11 SENERAL COMMAND 56 (D.F.G.) & Richards 8-11-2 P Carberry 94 3 SUPS CONTI D'ESTRUVAL 9 (D.F.G.) & Banding 6-10-10 \_ A Doublin 97 1-2 General Command, 5-2 Vallant Warnor, 6-1 Contr D'Estronal.

3.30 THELWALL STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,292: 2m) (14) AT HAGE (17,292-2m) (14)

1 - BADERTS (ME 388 (5) K Bailey 5-11-11 ... J Raillon 1 - 10-4 LIST (ME GUESTION 15 (0.6) J. J O'Neil 6-11-11 . R Boset 3 - 541 STRONG MINT 11 (0.5) Ms M Revely 5-11-11 ... P Micro BACK ON THE LASH F Marphy 4-11-4 ... P Carberry 6 - 6 BRLY BUXDSON 18 J Morton 4-11-4 ... D Bridgreiter 6 BRLY BUXDSON 18 J Morton 4-11-4 ... J O Bridgreiter 7 BREATH OF SCANDAL D Stemento 5-11-4 ... J O Shome 8 30 MEADOW HYIM 18 J Fitzgreit 5-11-4 ... J O Shome 10 CRUEL MASS LEFALE Ms M FERCH 5-11-4 ... W Dwan MERRY MASSULERADE Ms M FROMEY 5-11-4 ... A Dobbin 10 SCHOLAR GREEN R Recisets 5-11-4 ... W McTarband 5 - SLICE ON 255 P Creek 5-11-4 ... W McTarband 5 - SLICE ON 255 P Creek 5-11-4 ... W McTarband 5 - SLICE ON 255 P Creek 5-11-4 ... S Guide 4 0 PRIMITIVE LISH IS A Smith 6-10-18 ... P Mindley (3) Sarvin Mint 7-2 Breath Of Scandil 4-1 Racher's Lare 6-1 Res Eiger. 6-1

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANCES; F. Jordan, 4 wigners from 10 numers, 40.0%; G. Richards, 30 liven 100, 30.0%; J. Fitzperald, 13 liven 48, 27 1%; N. Gaselee, 3 trom 12, 25.0%, N. Yerkston-Davies, 14 from 57, 24 6%; J. Jellerson, 5 from 21, 23.3%. JOCKEYS: F Callaghau, 3 wonners from 5 roles, 60 0%, D Bridgwaler, 11 from 39, 26.2%, A Dobbin, 10 from 50, 20.0%, P Niven, 9 from 61, 14 8%, Only qualifiers.

3-1 Strong Mint, 7-2 Breath Of Scandal, 4-1 Badger's Lane, 6-1 Bes Eiger, 8-1 BBby Buckstan, 10-1 Marry Massquorade, No Finer Man, 12-1 others.

White fined £1,000

JOHN WHITE has been fined £1,000 by the John White has been lined blood by the Jockey Club disciplinary committee for "failing to exercise reasonable care" in his handling of the six-year-old, Flying Eagle. The committee also found that the trainer had not acted in the best interests of the gelding's owner by neglecting to inform him of a tendon injury sustained in a race at Kempton in

### LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

12.30 Pedattothemetal. 1.00 River Leven. 1.35 Sliver Shred. 2.10 Roseberry Avenue. 2.40 John Drumm. 3.10 Marinere Mirror. 3.40 Arkley Royal.

GOING, GOOD TO SOFT

12.30 BRANDY BUTTER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,364: 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

- 344 TICKERTY'S GRT 7 (CD.8: S) 6 L Moore 6-12-0 M Athense (4)
2 38-4 HAWTHORNE GLEN 7 (CD.F.8) Mrs M Long 8-11-7 A Ivino (4)
3 38-3 SHEPHERIOS REST 10 (D.8) S Melser 4-11-2 ... 6 Harm (7)
4 2-32 PEDAL (TOTEMENTAL 8 P Microsoft 4-11-1 ... D J Mavenagin
5 4PLV WIDE SUPPORT 1035 (D.5) A Messe 11-10-11 M Batchetor (4)
6 090/ DETSBAY GSS (2.F.G.S.) S Melser 8-10-1 ... Soprie Matchetor (4)
7 D-65 MUSSIAN 421 P Windowsth 5-10-0 ... X Alexan (4)
8 532- BALLYMSTR 205 E Washin 7-10-0 ... M Griffian (4)
9 5-69 FATHER POWER 105 S Bowen 8-10-0 ... C Ran (4)

.00 PORT & STILTON NOVICES HANDICAP

CHASE (£2,585: 2m) (9) 6-4 Reer Leven, 4-1 Castinconner, 5-1 Stage Player, 6-1 Bayesi, 12-1 King's Bold, 18-1 Palicanners Pride, 25-7 Kantanus Way

1.35 HBLB MARES ONLY CHRISTMAS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,493: 2m 3i 110yd) (5)

6-4 Silver Stred, 2-1 Sell By The Stars, 9-2 Leasons Laza, 6-1 Fontunes Course 6-1 Handy Laza

2.10 JARDINE INSURANCE SERVICES JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2.616: 2m 110yd) (16)

2.40 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

5-4 Boardroom Stoffle, 9-4 Dentes Careher, 5-1 Three Farthings, 8-1 Masler Plignon 10-1 John Drumm, 12-1 Stamagore Warner, 20-1 Belle Park.

3.10 MAC VIDI NOVICES CHASE (£3,425: 3m) (6) 1 -311 MARINERS MIRROR 15 (G.S) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-7
Mr M Ruradi

U4.P BEABULBIN 22 J Modins 6-10-12 .... 3 -215 (EMPA), CAMALER 14 (67.5) 6 Bailding 6-10-12 ... 3 Fention 4 -253 MR PICROCKET 14 (5) Mes H Angel 8-10-12 ... 1 Murphy 5 Q5 MYSTIC MANNAS 373 A Tumel 10-10-12 ... DOUBTING 6 Q-6U GENMA'S WASER 14 M Campige 6-10-7 ... L Havey 4-5 Markers Mirror, 5-2 Mr Pickpocket, 4-1 Kendal Caudies, 12-1 Benbulber, 20-1 George's Klager

3.40 HOLLY & IVY MAIDEN OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,312. 2m 110yd) (11)

3-1 Artisty Repai, 4-1 Good Time Denoce, 5-1 Repail Offer 6-1 Shanakanndi, 8-1 Piteny 10-1 Sche Grey, 12-1 Chemin-De-Fee, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAMERS: P Kelleway 5 womers have 6 runners, 83.2%; R Alerbuss. 12 from 28, 42 9%; J Cold, 5 from 16, 31.3%, A Terredt 9 from 29, 31%; R Twiston-Davies, 6 from 20, 30.0%, G L Moora, 5 from 18, 27 8%.

Blinkered first time LINGFIELD PARK: 2.10 Half An Inch. 340 Bebe Grey UTTOXETER: 12.25 Gutteridge

12.35 Simply Deshing 1.10 Make A Stand 1,45 Trainglot

2.20 INCHCALLOCH (nap) 2.50 Zaradar 3.20 Ashwell Boy

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.45 PLEASURE SHARED.

#### GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF.F.G.S) "Mr. D Pobaccon) B Hab 12-0 . . B West (7) 88 Received number Sin-liquie from (F - tell P - pulled up U - unsealed ridge B - brought often S - stoped up B - relaced D - discoperation. S - stoped up B - relaced D - from the stope and the stope are discovered the stope and the stope are discovered the stope and the stope are stope are stope and the stope are stope and the stope are stope as the stope are stope are stope as the stope are stope are stope as the stope are stope are stope are stope are stope as the stope are st

Going: Good to Firm TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

#### 12.35 BOOK OF MUSIC HOVICES CHASE

(Grade II £12,320: 2m 3t 110yd) (8 runners)

BETTME, 7-4 or Angel, 2-1 Simply Dashing, 5-1 On So Risky, 6-1 Country Star, 8-1 Cheryl's List, 20-1 Lucky Dollar, 23-1 Bobbe Bason, Statie. 1995. SENOR EL BETRUTTI 6-11-3 6 Baseley 166-1) Mrs 5 Noci 8 ma

FORM FOCUS

OH SO RISKY best Dirson Ande by 71 to 4-numer novice chase at Ludiow (2m novice chase here (2m, good to firm) OR ROYAL best bream Ride by 41 in 6-numer novice chase at Donesche Crm. 31 110y4, soil)
SIMPLY DASHBYS best Rido Dae by 101 in 9SIMPLY DASHBYS best Rido Dae by 101 in 9Simpler novice chase at Remethy (2m 4f 110y4, good to novice chase at novice handcap chase at southered (2m 110y4, good)
Southered (3m 110y4, good)
Section (0K ROYAL)

1.10 METTIE GROUP KENNEL GATE NOVICES HURDLE

(Grade 8 £9,212: 2m 110yd) (9 runners) 

BETTRIC: 5-4 Maio: A Stand 5-1 Retempt Sunstane, 7-1 Bourtiffe Court. 8-1 Latabash, 10-1 Eagles, Rest Supremu Charm, 12-1 Perfect Pal, 20-1 others 1995. CALL EQUINABLE 5-17-4 A P McCoy 7-4 (P Micholis) 10 mg

#### FORM FOCUS

MARCE A STAND best Master Bousled by 21 in 15rainer William Hall Handicap Hundle of Sandown
(2m 110yd, good to soft) LATAHAAB, isolad stayer on
(2m 110yd, good to soft) LATAHAAB, isolad stayer on
(2m 110yd, good to soft) LATAHAAB, isolad stayer on
(2m 13, good) when last seen out,
(2m 13, good) when last seen out,
(2m 13, good) when last seen out,
(2m 13, mm) when last seen out,
(2m 14, mm) when last seen out

1.45 LONG WALK HURDLE

BETTING: 5-2 Pleasure Sterrel, 11-4 What A Constron, Trainciet, 9-2 Ocean Hant, 6-1 High Assy, 20-1 Top Spin 1905: SILVER WEDGE 4-11-7 J Osborne (7-1) O Sherwood 11 nm

FORM FOCUS

BLAZE AWAY but Monitoramen by 171 in 4-renner immittees fundle at Doncester (2m 4t, good to 1mm). CCRAH HAWK neck 2nd of 4 to Olympian in butdicap hundle here (3m, good to 1mm). PLEA-SURE SHARED taker in novice chase at Uniphate list time out. Best effort over hundles to best Seeign.

2.20 BETTERWARE CUP

(Grada I: £25,240: 3m 1f 11Dyd) (6 runners)

(Handicap chase: £24,379: 3m 110yd) (9 runners) | Committee Classes 2.24,574 St 11 (1907) (9 (Unities) | 1 (1907) (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1 (1907) | 1

Long handicate: Go Balistic 9-13, Turnog Trix 9-13.

BETYINS: 3-1 Unguided Missale, 7-2 Inducations, 9-2 Desire Dove, 5-1 Major Bell, 6-1 Turning Trix, Go Balistic, 16-1 Taylando, 20-1 others.

1996: LINGLEDED MISSILE 7-10-8 R Dumicody (7-2) 6 Richards 9 ran FORM FOCUS

TRAVADO 44 4th of 5 to Abssiom's Lady in William Hit Herion Gold Cap Handicap Chess at Earler (2nd 11 10)vd, good to 3cm). UNISUROED MISSILE best Couloir Be Better by 41 in 4-mener Edward Hanner Handicap Chess at Heriods (1m, part). DEKTRIA DOVE 34: 5th of 11 to Conner Hit in Heriodscy Corgans Gold Cap at Newbury (3m 21 110)vd, good). The Conner Hit in Heriodscy Corgans Gold Cap at Newbury (3m 21 110)vd, good). The Conner Hit in Heriodscy Corgans Gold Cap at Newbury (3m 21 110)vd, good). The Conner Hit in Heriodscy Corgans Gold Cap at Newbury (3m 21 110)vd, good). The Conner Hit in Heriodscy Corgans Gold Cap at Newbury (3m 21 110)vd, good). The Conner Hit in Heriodscy Corgans Gold Cap at Newbury (3m 21 110)vd, good). The Conner Hit in Heriodscy Corgans Gold Cap at Newbury (3m 21 110)vd, good (3m 3-ment) and Gold Cap at Newbury (3m 21 110)vd, good (3m 3-ment)

2.50 FROSMORE HANDICAP CHASE

(£9,458, 2m) (5 runners) 

BETTENE: 5-4 Asia Torri, 3-1 Storra Alert, 9-2 Zamidar, 7-1 Around The Horri, 8-1 Sybiffen. 1965: PROKT STREET 8-10-1 J Osborne (11-8) S Sharwood 6 ran FORM FOCUS

ASK TOM best Nation by 271 on 6-name handleap chase at Newbory (2m 11, good) STORM ALEXT distance 3rd of 4 to Sound Man in Tingle Creek Chase at Sendown (2m, good) STORM ALEXT distance 3rd of 4 to Sound Man in Tingle Creek Chase at Sendown (2m, good) 25 EEDAR beat Newtest Primes by 21 or 3-namer Inacticap chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good to firmt).

Castleford Chase at Wetherby (2m, solt), December

#### 3.20 KNIGHTS ROYAL HURDLE

C2. CV | KNIGHTS ROYAL MORALE:
(28,559: 2m 110yd) (9 numers)

601 11221-3 PADDY'S RETURN 57 (8,85.50).F(5) (P 0 Donnell) F Marphy 4-11-10 R Donnerooty 80

602 21015-5 TRASIC HERO 161F (8,0.6.5) (N legan) Hautes M Pipe 4-11-10 ... A P McCoy 85

603 44FR66 NOW WITTASE? 7 (20.6.5) (A Neurol) M Creation 5-11-5 ... W Worthington 89

604 44-5450 AULTIME DANCER 21 (0.F.0.5) (P Heroun) 0 Sherwood 4-11-2 ... S Bandley 88

605 2521-4 ASHWELL ROY 7 (C0.F.0.5) (A Reurol) P Foliab 5-11-5 ... ... M Williamson 90

606 21- TREFAN 950 (0.5) (Laby Hernes) 1 Laby Hernes 4-11-2 ... ... M Williamson 90

607 325-11F MR PERCY 21 (0.F.0.) (P Rosenerle's Wildow 2 Son) J Cillord 5-10-12 P P Hote 87

608 2879-05 ESKOND MEL 14 (0.6.5) (Fat Chances) J Spermy 5-10-11 ... R Gently 83

609 240-142 MISTINGUETT 29 (0.F.0.5) U Duggan N Inscinn-Dances 4-10-11 C Lieurellyn 98

1995; PRIDWELL 5-11-5 A P McCoy (6-1) M Pipe 5 ran

PADDY'S RETURN beat Magical Lady by 41 in 29romer Delty Express Triumph Hurtle at Cheltenham
(2m 11, good) in March, with MSTINGUETT (8b
better oil) beat 3rd and TRAGGC HERO about 251
12b. TRAGGC HERO beat Dreams End by next in
17-numer werende hurtle at Sendoon (2m 110yd, good)
110yd, good)
12b. TRAGGC HERO beat Dreams End by next in
17-numer werende hurtle at Sendoon (2m 110yd, good)
18 TRAGGC HERO beat Dreams End by next in
1904, good)
18 Sendoon (2m 110yd, good)
1904, good and 1904, good)
1905, good and 1904, good)
1906, good and 1904, good (2m 110yd, good), with
1906, good and 1904, good (2m 110yd, good), with
1907, good and 1904, good (2m 110yd, good)
1907, good (2m 110yd, good)
1908, good (2m 110yd, good)
1908, good (2m 110yd, good)
1909, good (2m 110yd, good)
1909,

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS Wins Pars **JOCKEYS** 7 26 16 64 4 18 13 67 12 65 16 94 24 62 39 57 109 C Maude A P McCoy S McNeill C Licarellyn R Dunwoody A Maguire

RACING HEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Kelso (first race, 12.45), Ludiow (1.00) TUESDAY: No racing WEDNESDAY: No racing.
THURSDAY: Ayr (12.25), Hereford (1.05), Huntingdon (12.30), Kempton Park (24, 12.40), Lingfield Park (AW, 12.50), Market Rasen (12.30), Newton Abbot (12.5), Sedgefeld (12.40), Wetherby (12.45), Wincanton (12.45), Wolverhampton (1.00).
FRIDAY: Chepstow (BBC, 12.20), Kempton (C4, 12.40), Leacester (12.55), Musseburgh (12.35), Wetherby (1.00) SATURDAY: Folkestone (1.05), Huntingdon (12.40), Newbury (BBC, 1.15), Newcastle (1.00) WEDNESDAY: No racing.

0930 168+ COMMENTARY **ASCOT HAYDOCK 102 202** UTTOXETER 103 203 LINGFIELD 104 204 120 220 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 16 B

RACELINE

to be the control of the control of

RUGBY UNION

## Robinson calls on Bath to rise above the internal unrest

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Pilkington Cup will be a forecast for frost in the North causes postponements. The draw for the fifth round. which introduces the first and second division clubs to this season's competition, gives the small fry little chance to progress and thereby robs the cup of a degree of magic. Cheltenham, for example,

must go to The Stoop to play Harlequins; Newbury, the least experienced cup team in this round, meet Leicester and Saracens will surely have far too much firepower for Reading. The only match where a first division club is certain to fall is that at the Recreation Ground, Bath, where London Irish visit a club apparently more at odds with itself than for many a year. Bath and the cup, of course,

have become virtually synonymous: ten final appearances, ten wins, including last season. Yet, this month has brought the unwanted publicity that surrounds some citycentre rowdyism and the mysterious absence ("on holiday") of Brian Ashton, the chief coach, in the week before a cup round. Added to this are the injuries that keep Phil de Glanville, the captain, Mike Catt and Eric Peters out of the game today.

Andy Robinson, than whom

no more whole-hearted player has appeared for Bath, has been coaching the side this week and reflects that: "We have always had problems off the field at Bath. It is a hightension club, but the record books show that the players have always got on with it and matches that

If, however, the club's tensions spill over, Bath's professionals may find that they now

ence; nor have the players, this season, always produced the required results, most notably in the Heineken Cup. Whether London Irish can take advantage today is open to doubt. Half of their team have played international rugby (though one, Rob Henderson, has been omitted from Ireland's warmweather training in the Algarve next weekend on grounds of fitness), but they are desper-ately in need of a domestic

pick-me-up and a visit to Bath is no placebo. The wannabes of the second



Robinson: whole-hearted

division take their affluence and their ambition to first division opposition. Bedford will fancy their prospects of beating Orrell even more if Junior Paramore, their Western Samoa international, is match-fit, while Newcastle play West Hartlepool tomorrow (one of two Sunday matches, along with Bristol v Blackheath) in a match fraught with less-than-

neighbourly overtones. Richmond, the second division leaders, play Sale in as quality as they have yet had. "If Sale can frighten the top

two in the first division, we must be starting as outsiders." Ben Clarke, the Richmond captain, said. "We still don't know how good we are in topflight terms. We will find out, but this is the sort of game we need to win if we want to be promoted and go up with real confidence." Leicester and Harlequins,

traditional cup exponents. have taken the opportunity to rest some of their internationals. Graham Rowntree and Martin Johnson are missing from the pack which plays Newbury, though Rory Un-derwood starts his first genuinely competitive game since October. Harlequins rest Will Carling and Jason Leonard against Cheltenham, but give Robbie Paul his first outing at

stand-off half. There will be a warm welcome at Lightfoot Green for Paul Grayson, warmer still after his omission from the England team this season. Grayson plays stand-off for Northampton against Preston Grasshoppers, the club famed for producing Wade Dooley but also for converting Gray-son from a footballer of potential to an international rugby

colt before the eye of the first XV coach alighted on him: two seasons with the seniors followed before Grayson moved on to Waterloo and thence to Northampton. Richard, his brother, still plays in Preston's nent today will be Steve Kerry. captain of the Grasshoppers after a peripatetic rugby league career with Salford, Oldham and Huddersfield. Since Kerry is also Preston's record points-scorer, Grayson

been fuelled by cash from the may feel that he has a point to

## Newbury aiming to tweak Tigers' tail

David Hands reports

on the testing cup-tie

facing the underdogs

who have conquered illness and all-comers

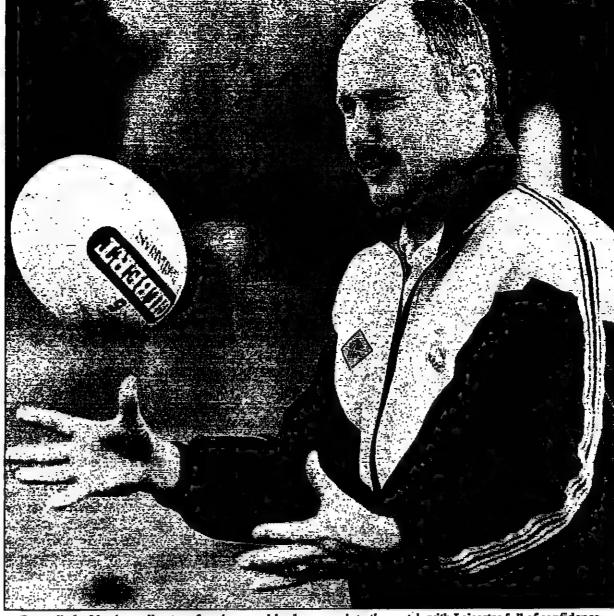
ix hours before kick-off and the team manager is still worrying about the composition of the XV that must take on the league leaders in the country's premier knockout competition. Not only that, there is a small matter of three leagues be-tween them and for the past fortnight the forwards have

been racked by illness. That is Newbury's situation this morning, before their Pilkington Cup fifth round meeting with Leicester at Welford Road. It has been an extraordinary month for Newbury, yet they go into the Tigers' den with a brio born for their gala match with the Western Samoans — and the confidence to show that good rugby can be played outside the first division. "At the moment they are

firmly of the belief they can win it," Terry Burwell, the Newbury director of rugby, said of his players. Well, those able to play after the bacterial skin disease that affected nine forwards and forced the postponement of the fourth-round tie with Lydney until last Tuesday. Julian Brammer and Andy Newsham, hooker and lock respectively, still await the

"Confidence in sport is everything and we have not learnt to lose much this season," Burwell said. It was not a quality of which he was short as a centre or wing with Leicester during the 1970s. Burwell played for Leicester side, in 1979, and his last match was a cup semi-final against London Scottish four years later, so he is well acquainted with the fervent cup atmosphere that Welford Road can generate. Newbury's ambition has

sale of their ground, by



Burwell, the Newbury director of rugby, says his players go into the match with Leicester full of confidence

and shrewd direction. They have recruited, but their growing reputation has elped: so, a player such as John McCartney, the lock, is moved by his firm from Ballymena to Berkshire and instantly finds himself at

A strong core of servicemen has taken root, among them Brammer, the Royal Engineers officer who has cap-

contracted players, 27 of whom are on retained contracts, with first-teamers earning appearance money and a win bonus (which is tripled for every cup win after the first round).

They could have been ex-cused defeat last Tuesday: half the pack were on antibiotics, but their defence held up and they clinched the through Tom Holloway, the

that match may prove will be seen today, not only for the forwards but also for Nick Grecian, the former London Scottish full back who has been suffering from a different viral infection.

The town is beginning to realise we have a sports club worth supporting." Burwell said. "A game against Leicester helps the media image so much, but we are division south] and we have

league above us in the cup, which bodes well for the

"I'll tell the players to go out and enjoy it, but they must also take something collectively and individually from playing Leicester — it may be just a sustained piece of pressure, a quality piece of play, even a result. They need to ensure the game doesn't pass them by, that they play

## RFU makes seasonal gesture

THE Rugby Football Union tributed almost El million to the clubs with which it has been in such prolonged and acrimonious dispute.

Each of the 24 clubs from the Courage Clubs Championship first and second divisions will receive £40,000 — a total bill of £960,000. The RFU said that it had taken the step "to help to alleviate any shortterm financial pressures". Some of those clubs that have not attracted backing from wealthy individuals have been struggling to meet their hugely increased wage-

UTTOXETER

12.25 Stormy Passage. 12.55 Sallor Jim. 1.30 Menshaar, 2.05 Art Prince. 2.35 Mim-Lou-And. 3.05 Who is Equiname. 3.35 Cherrymore.

12.25 TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PAST PUPILS

3-4 Cormy Parsage 9-2 Militer Rm, 6-1 Samento, 6-1 Process, 16-1 Victoria Day, 2005 (2005)

: 2-23 LORO CYLLEKE 14 (BF) 5 Brookston 8-12-0 Mr R Thornton (5)

12.55 CHRIS TALBOT 39TH BIRTHDAY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,664: 3m) (7)

GGING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)

NOVICES HURDLE (£2,631 · 2m) (16 runners)

sight to the pay dispute be-

(WSRUR) and the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU), it will come too late to save the league programme today. Only six Swalec Cup games will go ahead, as well as a clutch of matches in the lower reaches of the Welsh League.

There is hope that the December 28 league programme will be preserved.
The only sticking point is on the issue of referees' contracts. but hopefully we can negotiate around that," Hugh Banfield, the WSRUR secretary, said after a meeting with union

Though the end may be in officials on Thursday night. Rugby Union Referees by Monday we should have a concensus and we can move forward from there."

> The WRU is understood to have conceded the referees' request that their pay should be backdated to the start of the season, rather than the start of this month, and that a sliding scale of payments should be made across the top five divisions.

☐ Dale McIntosh, the Pontypridd and Wales flanker. is not expected to play for eight weeks after suffering a fractured jaw in a clash of heads

2.05 HEATHYARDS ENGINEERING NOVICES

4-5 Art Prance, 7-1 Pearl Epies, 8-7 Speathead Again, Walls Court, 16-1 Baroncelli. 14-1 Romans Step. Flamming Minacle, 20-1 others

2.35 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN HANDICAP HURDLE

206 - EXPRESS GRT 425 (6,5) Mrs M Routley 7-11-10 R Smith
2 Dr0 DR LEIDIT 42 (6) P hobbs 5-11-8. Gramey
3 11-4 OUTSET 21 (0,6,5) M Hamstond 6-10-12e Mrs Genoer (3)
4 43-0 BACKY HEAD 21 (0,6,5) M Theili 8-10-8
5 -242 MBM-LOL-HID 36 (F,5) Mrs H knopti 4-10-0. R Johnson
6 6-22 MSR 400E 31 (0,6,5) Mrs H knopti 4-10-0. B Powel
7 0-02 ARTHMETIC 5-0 (0,5) Mrs J Phron 6-10-0. W Marston
8 4313 DALLY BOY 21 (BF,5 6) T Exclete, 4-10-0. J Callaghan

5-2 Egyett Gift. 7-2 Dr Leuret. 4-1 Outdet 9-2 Mitm-Leu-And, 7-1 Daily Boy. 10-1 Granding, 12-1 offices

1 20-3 GAROLO 21 (S) C Bracks 6-11-0 D Gallagher
2 PRP- GLERAMYS 252P P Princhard 9-11-0 T P Princhard
3 01-P ROLERS PRODE 15 (6.5) C Paghtan 6-11-0 T Dascombe (3)
4 -15P ROLER 37 (8.F.6) D Michologo 6-11-0 R Johnson
5 1/6- WHO IS FOLINAME 404 (S) N Hooders F-11-0 JR Kananagh

6-4 Rolle, 2-1 Genote 4-1 Who is Equiname, 6-1 Robins Pride 14-1 Glenmans

OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,474: 2m) (16)

MAY ROSE P Hebbs 6-10-13 THE BAUCKLE CLINE, I GWELL 5-16-13. . .

4-1 Justipus, 5-1 Chempmone, 7-1 Benefil-In-Kind, 8-1 May Roso, 15 Cook Sentr., 18-1 The Muchie Quine, 12-1 Par Blank UK, 16-1 others

Lingfield's extra fixture

THERE will be an all-weather meeting at

Lingfield on Boxing Day to ensure there is no repeat of last year's blank day, when all ten

turf meetings were abandoned. John Smee, of

the BHB's race planning department, said:
"The long-term forecast is fairly uncertain but

there's a distinct possibility of frost."

BELTEFIT-RI-KIND Miss H Mosts 4-11-4 . Mr A Winds (7)

3.35 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW

3.05 WELLMAN PLC NOVICES CHASE

HANDICAP CHASE (£3,087. 2m 5f) (10)

(£5,070, 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

## Scottish provinces begin journey towards Europe

SCOTLAND'S provincial sides, who sank without trace when first testing the European waters in the Heineken Cup earlier this season, begin the campaign for qualification for the 1997-98 tournament tomorrow with the start of the inter-district championship. Edinburgh meet Glasgow at

Myreside while Caledonia welcome the Scottish Borders at Kirkcaldy. The Scottish Exiles, who have won the championship for the past two years, can no longer take part. much to their chagrin.

The European tournament, from which Scottish districts eked out only two narrow wins, was a painful reminder of the gulf in class, domestically at least, between Scotland and the other four principle nations. On the positive side, however, it whened players' appetites for the fray and opened their eyes to the standard of performance to which they must aspire.

There is still a long way to go, though, according to lan Barnes, the Edinburgh coach, who yesterday dismissed the standard of Scottish rugby below international level as appalling". He and Scott Hastings, the Edinburgh captain, have attempted to instil a sense of purpose and collective responsibility to a side that has often flattered to deceive.

TOMORROW'S TEAMS

Camour (Heno's FP), 8 Hasdings (Watsoniers); H Gamour (Heno's FP), 8 Hasdings (Watsoniers), M Greig (Currel, 8 Reed (Boroughmus) D Hodgs (Watsoniers), D Patterson (Heno's FP); R McNutly (Boroughmus), G Etis (Curre, 8 Savean (Edmburgh Academicals), B Ward (Curre), D Burns (Boroughmus), A Lucking (Curre), G Dat (Heno's FP), S Red (Boroughmus)

GLASGOW: K Logar (Barting County); D Stark (Meinse), A Busicon (Mest of Scotisnol), A Garry (Watsoniare), G Met-calle (Gasgow Acade), F Statt (West of Scot-land); G Michiam (GHQ), G Busicoh (West of Scotiand), B Robertson (Sating County), F Walson (GHQ), S Murro (GHQ), Norval (String County), M Walson (GHQ), D MoLeath (West of Scotland)

"As a group, we have been kidding ourselves in the past couple of years," Barnes said. "In the 1980s we had a very strong side, which included the Calders, the Milnes and the Hastings. We expect to be better than the rest, with more clubs and more players. Our attitude has been that we are better than these guys on opposing teams), but we are not. It is a watershed that we

have realised this.\* Without question, Edinburgh's performances in the Heineken Cup were the least impressive of Scotland's participants. Certain individuals did enhance their reputation, not least Andy Lucking, the Currie lock forward who qualifies for Scotland next year through residency. Edinburgh

(att Knincuscy)

CALEDONIA REDS: 5 Burns (Edinburgh Acads); \$ Longsteff (Durdee HSFP), P Rouse (Durdee HSFP), A Cerruthers (Kriccaldy), J Kerr (Watsonsens); M McKendie (String County), P Simpson, (Edinburgh Acads); T Smith (Watsonsens); K McKendie (String County), D Herhregion (Kriccaldy), D McAvor (Glernotheel), S Compbell (Melrosel: 5 Gdmes (Watsonsens), G Flookhert (String County), M Watse (Edinburgh Acads).

SCOTTISM BOPDERS (Millinear unless, stated): C Turnibull (Hawick), M Changleng (Gala), A Stanger (Hawady, S Nichol, O Parker, C Chalmers, S Redpath, M Michry Jud-Forest), S Brotherston, S Ferguson Precises, S Bennet (Kelso), S Alten, C

will need Lucking at his best against a combative Glasgow pack led by Graham Bulloch. Kenny Logan, scorer of two tries against Italy last week one after switching to full back again wears the No 15 jersey. Logan is one of three members of the international squad who line up for Glasgow, the others being Derek Stark and Murray Wallace. Rob Wainwright, who has

not played since the tour to New Zealand, has again been forced to delay his return from injury for Caledonia, but Stewart Campbell is back in the team. Nine of his club colleagues, including Craig Chalmers and Bryan Repath. figure in the Borders side who start as favourites to win the championship this season.

## Stern test awaits Dungannon

BY KARL JOHNSTON

DUNGANNON'S last visit to Garryowen's Dooradoyle home, in Limerick, was back in the 1993-94 season, when they lost 19-16. Having won back Insurance Corporation League first division status this season, they make the trek south again today for a match in which Garryowen will fancy their chances.

The form of both is identical: each lost their opening league matches, then bounced back with satisfactory wins last Saturday. Dungannon are three places above Garryowen in the first division table, but only on scoring difference, and Garryowen's hopes should be enhanced by the return after injury of two key players -Killian Keane at stand-off half and Paul Hogan, the captain.

Steve McIvor, the Ireland scrum half, is out, suspended after an alleged fracas during a Munster Development League game between Garryowen and Young Munster at which he was merely a speciator. He is replaced by Colin Ford. Keane's recovery from an

ankle injury is timely, for he has enjoyed a fine season with Munster. Dominic Crotty, who, like McIvor, made his Ireland debut against Australia will be another influential figure, and the return of Hogan, the former international, to the back row will

strengthen a pack that struggled. Dungannon have been hit by the loss of Jeremy David-

son, to London Irish, and Paddy Johns, who joined Saracens in company with Richard Wallace, of Garryowen, but Keith Walker and Charlie Simpson have been doing well in the second row, particularly in the 35-6 demolition of Ballymena last Saturday.

Dungannon's Achilles' heel though, could be a limited back line, which has little to offer apart from Stephen Bell. the Ulster scrum half. Dungannon always show commendable spirit, but rather more will be needed if they are to overcome Garryowen.

Blackrock College — one of four undefeated first division clubs - have dropped Shane Byrne, their unfit Ireland A hooker, for their away match against Old Belvedere. The hapless Byrne played his first match after a shoulder injury lay-off last Saturday, in the narrow defeat of Old

Wesley.
St Mary's College, who have a dismal league record against Limerick clubs, face Shannon, the champions, at Templeville Road today, but Lansdowne, who head the first division table on scoring differential, should have little trouble in their home match against Instonians.

#### TENNIS

### Becker to move after threats to his family

BEMEFT-RI-CHOND Miss M Morgal 4-11-4 Mr A Windle (7)
BLOWNER BOOK R Studen 4-11-4 D Gallagher
GREENFYMORE Mb J Photon 5-11-4 G Hagan (3)
4 EL CRAMK SERGIR 71 R Woodhouse 4-11-4 D Byton
GEN'S PREDIOUS I Vital 5-11-4 R Massey (3)
U GO FOR THE DOCTOR 647 B McVelono 6-11-4 D Bascombe (3)
AUSTISMA 15 Instan-Davies 4-11-4 R R Broonton (5)
LEDBURHAM Mass P White 6-11-4 R Homoton (5)
LEDBURHAM Mass P White 6-11-4 R Homoton (7)
ARR MONTAGUE T Downelly 4-11-4 T D'Commor (7)
APP MEMBE J Leoth 6-11-4 G Tormey
THE BUIG J Leoth 6-11-4 R Johnson
MAY ROSE PHOBOS 6-10-13 Mr S Demark (7)
THE MUCKLE CURNE (2) West 5-16-13 quit his native Germany after kidnap threats against his three-year-old son, Noah, and racial abuse against his wife. Barbara. In an interview to be broadcast tomorrow by Sat-l television, Becker, 29, explained that his wife and son were under protective 24-hour police surveillance at his Munich home.

"My son will not go to school in Germany." Becker said as he denounced the racism to which his wife, who is black, has been subjected. "My wife has had to put up with things which I just didn't think were possible in this day and age. Sometimes people won't even give her the key to our hotel room because

BORIS BECKER wants to they don't believe her when she says she is my wife." Becker, the former Wimble-

don champion and world No l, said that he would not tolerate such discrimination and would probably move to the United States, "where I am less well-known". ☐ German tax investigators raided Becker's home and

took away several files. a newspaper said yesterday. The Bavarian finance ministry said that it could neither confirm nor deny the report in the mass-circulation Bild. The documents, seized on Thursday, concerned the per-

iod between 1990 and 1993

when Becker was living in

Monaco to avoid high Ger-

DESPITE the announce-

emerged yesterday.

Barcelona earlier this month, punctured speculation that he was about to return to the sport this week by saying that his schedule would not permit him to devote the time to a hectic 17-race season. However. it is now thought that Mansell, who is spending Christmas and new year abroad with his family but has consistently ruled out retireMOTOR RACING

## Mansell ponders part-time drive

BY OLIVER HOLT

ments, the shared statements and the overriding sense of anticlimax that descended on Formula One last week, Nigel Mansell could yet make a dramatic grand prix return with Jordan next season, it

Mansell, who tested a Jordan-Peugeot for two days in

next month, with the possibility of a full race return later in the season. That prospect would be

enhanced if Jordan succeed in signing Giancarlo Fisichella. from Italy, next week. Fisichella impressed the team during a two-day test at Jerez. in Spain, this week and, if Jordan succeed in persuading Flavio Briatore and Giancario Minardi, who control his contract, to release him, he is likely to get the job of second driver at Jordan ahead of the Martin Brundle, the English-

The signing of Fisichella would, in turn, allow Mansell time to reaquaint himself with the Formula One car during

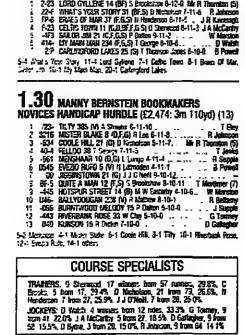
test programme with Jordan half of the season before a possible return late in the year, when Fisichella, regarded as one of the most promising of young drivers, might be asked to stand down.

Mansell, who has been out of the sport for 18 months, impressed with his lap times in Barcelona, where he came close to equalling the mark set by Ralf Schumacher, Jordan's other driver, but one of the reasons for his rejection of the chance to return immediately was that he felt that he needed more time to reacquaint himself with a Formula One car.

By midway through next season it will also be clear just how good the new Jordan-Peugeot is and whether the high hopes that Mansell ex-



me part are part in av fol



SKIING

**Alphand** 

strikes



Tern lesi awa Dungannon

## From royal decree to the dawn of Daly, choose the highlights from golf's rich history

## Flag days that are part of fairway folklore

ments from golf's history? Not just the most recent, nor only those in professional golf with which we seem to be besotted at present, but the best moments anywhere, by anyone, at any time? It is a question of enormous complexity considering that golf has been enjoyed for centuries and is now played on every conti-

nent by men and women, amateurs and professionals. As the The Times golf correspondent, I have been asked to sit on a committee to compile a list of the 25 greatest moments in golf, and I would like to recruit readers to my cause. The word "moment" could mean a specific incident, such as Gene Saragen's albatross on the 15th at Augusta National golf club in 1935, or it could mean the summer of 1930, when Bobby Jones, the amateur, won the Amateur and Open championships of both the United

States and Great Britain. .The idea has come from the United States and Tom Watson is involved, which is appropriate, since he figures in some of them. The 25 greatest moments will be announced next month.

One of the difficulties is that the memory tends to replay the more recent events - and there have been enough in the past 20 years to last a lifetime. In June 1969, before Tony Jacklin won the Open and began the revival of golf in Europe, would anybody have foreseen that Severiano Ballesteros would emerge to thrill the world with his attacking play, his brooding charisma or that his success would spark an upsurge among mainland continental European countries such as Spain, Sweden and Ger-

those dim. decimalisation days, nearly 30 years ago, would it have seemed possible that Europe-



John Hopkins enlists the help of readers in selecting the

game's most precious memories

ans would take such a firm the 1984 Open; the thrilling grip of the Masters or that the Ryder Cup would go from a drama that unfolded over the closing holes of the 1991 Ryder one-sided competition to a Cup at Kiawah Island, There biennial event of such imporare so many moments such as tance that it ranks as one of these, and yet the choice may the sporting occasions of that come from any period in golf year, not one of golf's occa-- not just this past quarter of sions? In 1969 it was incona century. ceivable that, in June 1996, the The greatest single shot that Ryder, Walker and Curtis I have seen was Ballesteros's three-wood from a bunker in cups would all reside on this side of the Atlantic for the 1983 Ryder Cup, but, with a couple of honourable exceponly the second time this

Europe's victory in the 1995 Ryder Cup; Nick Faldo win-ning the Masters eight months ago; Great Britain and Ireland's defeat of the United States in the Walker Cup at Royal Porthcawl last September, Ballesteros's exciting victory at St Andrews in

1988 Masters, a shot from a bunker that set up his victory. Christy O'Connor's two-iron at The Belfry in the 1989 Ryder Cup, Watson's wonder-fully-flighted iron through the afternoon sun to win the 1983 Open, his fifth, or Costantino Rocca's enormous putt on the rumpled eiderdown of the 18th green and its surrounds at St Andrews in the Open last Some moments are so out-

tions, shots per se rarely carry

enough weight to make my list. Sad as it seems, therefore,

I am not including Sandy

iron on the 72nd hole of the

standing as to be indubitable. Jones, the amateur, in 1930 is not just one moment but may vet be named the moment in all golf. Ben Hogan winning three major championships in 1953 is another and a third was Jack Nicklaus conceding a short putt to Jacklin to the the 1969 Ryder Cup.

Yet there might not have been professional golf as it is known today if there had not been an Open Championship in 1860. That was a significant moment, if ever there was one. So was the day when Francis Ouimet, an American amateur, beat Harry Vardon and Ted Ray, the two domiionals of the time,

#### 25 GREAT MOMENTS IN GOLF

- 1338 James II of Scotland issues the famous decree that football and golf be utterly cried down and not used. 1567 Two weeks after the assassination of Lord Damley, her husband, Mary Queen of Scots was out playing golf once again,
- 1860 The start of competitive golf with the staging of the first Open Championship, at Prestwick.
- Young Torn Morris's performance in covering the first 12 holes in 47 strokes, including an eagle three at the 578-yard 1st, of the Open at Prestwick, which he won by 12 strokes, averaging 74.5 for the two rounds.
- 1899 Freddie Tait's shot out of a bunker flooded to ankle depth on the 35th hole of the Amateur finel against John Ball at Prestwick
- 1913 Francis Outmet beating Harry Vardon and Ted Ray in a play-off for the US Open.
- 1920 Joyce Wethered not being distracted by a passing train as she putted on the 17th hole of the English Amateur at Sheringham. "What train?" she said.
- 1921 Roger Wethered, the amateur and brother of Joyce, initially declining to compete in a play-off for the Open at St Andrews on the grounds that he had to compete in a village cricket match the next day,
- 1926 Bobby Jones's mashie shot from sandy waste on to the green of the 71st hole of the Open at Royal Lytham.
- 1930 Bobby Jones winning the Open and Ameteur Championships of the US and Britain, what was known then as the impregnable Quadrilateral,
- 1935 Gene Sarazan's albatross two on the 15th hole of the fourth round of the tournament that became known as the Masters
- 1945 Byron Nelson's 11 consecutive victories and 18 in all.
- 1950 Ben Hogen winning the US Open 16 months after a severe car crash.
- 1953 Ben Hogan winning three of the geme's four major championships.
- 1954 Babe Zaharias coming back after cancer to win the US Women's Open.
- (B) 1960 Arnold Palmer winning the US Open with a last round of 85.
- 1969 Tony Jacklin winning the Open, beginning the revival of European golf
- 1969 Jack Nicklaus conceding a short putt to Tony Jacklin to tie the Ryder Cup
- 1975 Jack Nickleus's 45-foot putt on the 70th hole of the Masters.
- 1977 Tom Watson beating Jack Nicidaus in the Open at Tumberry.
- 1979 Golfers from mainland Europe competing in the Ryder Cup, thus helping to spread the game throughout the Continent and marking the rise in standards
- of Europe in the bienniai competition
- 1982 Tom Watson chipping in on the 71st hole of the US Open. 1987: Europe's victory
- in the Ryder Cup, limit first in the U.S. 1987 Great Britain and ireland's victory in the
- Walker Cup and first in the US. 1989 John Daly, ninth

alternate, wins the US

PGA championship.

to win the 1913 US Open. That launched the game in the United States, just as Jacklin's victory at Royal Lytham in the 1969 Open provided the impetus for the game to spread like

wildfire throughout Britain.

Babe Zaharias coming back to win the US Women's Open after cancer in 1954 has to be included, as does Hogan winning the US Open 16 months have excluded three other

sentimental moments - Nicklaus's victory in the 1986 Masters, Crenshaw's in 1995 and Faldo's in 1996. Am 1 right or wrong?

golf are given alongside. Send

blow for France

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LUC ALPHAND sped to victory in the men's World Cup downhill yesterday, becoming the first Frenchman to triumph in the Val Gardena World Cup downhill classic in Italy as the mighty Austrian ski machine ground to an abrupt halt.

Alphand, who has won the downhill World Cup for the past two years, clocked lmin 53.10sec to win the weatherclayed event, ahead of Atle Skaardal, of Morway (Imin 53.25sec), and Kristian Ghedina, of Italy (Imin

Pietro Vitalini, Ghedina's compatriot, was fourth in lmin 53.34sec and Adrien Duvillard, another Frenchman. (Imin 53,48sec), completed the top five.

The day was a big let-down for the Austrians, who have dominated the World Cup this season. After filling the top four places in the opening downhill, at Val d'Isère on Sunday, they had to settle for seventh to ninth with Werner Franz clocking Imin 53.88sec. Fritz Strobl, the winner on Sunday, doing 1min 53.93sec and Hans Knaus, the overall World Cup leader, coming home in Imin 53,99sec.

Patrick Onlieb, who won the previous two races on the Sasiong piste, in 1993 and 1995, was nowhere near a third success. He was seventeenth, nearly two seconds off

The race was stopped halfway through after Chad Fleischer, of the United States. crashed, although he walked away apparently unhurt.

The race was held despite falling snow, but was delayed for 75 minutes and the course was shortened by about 300 metres because of the conditions.

Alberto Tomba, of Italy, will not be racing in the World Cup giant slalom at Alta Badia tomorrow. Tomba, the triple Olympic champion, who came second behind Thomas Sykora, of Austria, on his season's debut at Madonna di Campiglio, still lacks race fitness after a bad fall in training in October.

Results, page 36

## Atherton must be prepared to dust down an old acquaintance

great Christmas cheer for Michael Atherton, the England cricket captain. You may be having a nightmare in Zimbabwe, Athers, but never fear: you will be having a merry reunion with old friends as soon as you reach the second leg of the tour, in New Zealand.

Guess who will be the match referee for the Kiwi Tests? Step forward your best pal and No 1 member of the Atherton fan club. Yes, I learn from my January copy of Wisden Cricket Monthly that it is good ol' Peter Burge. Burge was in charge of the

1994 series in England against South Africa, which witne the most pathetically vindictive act in the brief history of the match referee system. Burge was seriously miffed when, after the notorious dirtin-the-pocket business, Atherton was pre-emptively fined £2,000 by Raymond Illingworth, the England team manager. So much so that Burge subsequently fined Atherion all by himself, for the heinous crime of looking slightly peeved at being given out, an offence which even Wisden described as "stepping minimally out of line".

Before you get started in NZ, Pete, did you know that Atherton, answering a questionnaire in some publication or other, named you as "the last person he would invite to his birthday party"?

#### Words of note Peter Maxted, one of the most

brilliant footballers I have



Daly's US PGA victory

is worthy of inclusion

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

played with (I have led a very sheltered life) writes to suggest that this column instigates a literary award for such organs as football match pro-grammes. The first writer of the week, then, is Neil Warnock, the Plymouth Argyle manager, for this Joycean opening paragraph: "Good afternoon and welcome to our first local derby of the season. even though we are only in October, having played Bristol Rovers previously our nearest rivals, Bristol City today come down and before the start of the season I am sure that City would have been one of the favourites to get promotion this season with their super stadium in Bristol and after a shaky start they have picked up one or two results of late and I know that today's game will be as difficult as any of our previous home matches where we have really struggled to score goals



Burge will be keeping his eye on Atherton - and the hall

delighted at Walsall to pick up maximum points even though I thought the scoreline of 1-0 did not relfect the superiority that we had that day, as I am writing these notes before the Bournemouth game I just hope we can continue our unbeaten run at Dean Court."

#### Real deal Smirnoff vodika carried out a

poil of 10,000 sports enthusiasts in the United States before offering their "Get Real" awards, given to the most star-struck of superstars. The basketballing Dennis Rodman got 26 per cent of the vote for complaining that his salary was insufficient; a mere 13 million a year hardly covers costs, after all. In second place came Deion Sanders, for turning up to a Dallas Cowboys training session in a custom-made Mercedes Benz golf cart.

in third place came the entire basketball Dream Team, for watching the Olympic procession of nations from an executive box before strolling down to join the rest of United States team five minutes\_before they entered the

#### Rough quotes Who said this at the Olympic

Games? I. "They should take the critics out to the shooting venue and get rid of them." 2, "Perhaps she's just having a great meet ... she maintains she was drug-free, but she swam faster than me. 3, "I will do it. I-will. I will." 4, "If anybody sees me near a boat. they can shoot me." 5, "I don't stop being the world's best athlete because I lost one race." All these from The BBC Radio 5 Sports Yearbook 1997. edited by Peter Nichols and published by Oddball at £12.99. The essential work; the ideal last-second present.

#### Old bill ·

My search for a better name for the cricket-related pastime known as "one-day cricket" brings a response from R.H. Wright, late of Leathercrackers CC, suggesting a Redgrave, of course, highly suitable "crackit". He is Christie, of course.

however, the spirit has been also kind enough to enclose very good and I was very, very the club bar bill for the gathering that followed the Leathercrackers' encounter with Lee Wootton on September 19, 1949: 81 pints of mild ale @ 1/1: 20 pints of brown ale ● 1/2; 5 Guinness ● 1/0; 9 nourishing stouts @ 8d; 2 lemonades @ 4d; 5½ pints of cider @ 1/0; 48 tots of rum @ 1/8; 24 tots of port @ 10d; 24 tots of sherry @ 1/0; 48 tots of Gordons gin @ 1/7; 18 tots of Irish whiskey @ 1/7; 18 tots of peppermint 3/0. Total £17 19s 9d. There was also the princely sum of 7/11 spent on food, and 2/6 was given to "Mrs Wain", though the services she



Leather crackers also won the cricket match by three runs. Still counting

Thanks to everyone who has contributed Magic Numbers. Recent offerings include a hard-but-fair 18 — for Durham County Cricket Club, of course. A bottle of ambrosial Nicolas Feuillatte champagne goes to all contributors who make the final count, to be published in the next few days. Any last-minute bubbly-worthy thoughts will still just reach me, if you fax them on 0171-782 5211.

Answers to quiz: 1, Bill Camp-bell, the highly responsible mayor of Atlanta. 2, Janet Evans, graceful loser to Mi-chelle Smith. 3, Kerri Strug. before That Vault. 4, Steve Redgrave, of course, 5, Linford

## A FREE LUGGAGE TAG WITH EVERY ORDER. The Times executive leather collection



yours to Golf's Greatest Mo-

ments, Sports Department,

The Times, 1 Pennington

Street, London, El 9XN. I will

give a bottle of champagne to

the reader who helps me

The Times offers readers its executive leather collection, and with every order you will receive a FREE luggage tag. All items are crafted from premium quality black soft nappa hide. Conference Folder: with slot to fit an A4 pad, two business card pockets, two pen loops, black suede lining and tab-closure. 316 x 236 x 18mm.

Travel Wallet: detachable carry strap, seven credit card slots, four full length pockets for currency, passports and tickets, a mesh covered identity card pocket and three sided zip closure. 218 x 124 x 27mm. Wallet: internal coin pocket with fastener, two

banknote pockets, four credit card slots, two concealed pockets and secure press-stud closure. 120 x 95 x 16mm. Cheque Book Holder: full length pocket and cheque book holder slot, a credit card pocket, and a drivers licence pocket. 212 x 94 x 10mm.

Credit Card Holder: six internal credit card slots and two concealed pockets. 118 x 75 x 8mm. Business Card Holder: pocket for supply of business cards, two credit card slots, and internal lid pocket.

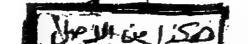
103 x 88 x 16mm. Luggage Tag: window for address and gilt buckle on attachment belt. 105 x 65 x 2mm.

Conference Folder Travel Wallet £40.00 £29,00 £25,00 Changes Book Hoteler \$19.00 Credit Card Holder Blackway Card Holow £4.89 I enclose a cheque for £ ...... payable to: The Times FT602. Prices include postage and packing. Value .... Please write name and address on back of all cheques Or debit my Access/ Visa card no for £. Print Name .. Send coupon and remittance to: The Times Executive Leather Collection FT602, PO Box 333, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7ZD

EXECUTIVE LEATHER COLLECTION

Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Offer available in the UK only. If dissatisfied return within 7 days for a full returnd. Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further details from The Times or companies approved by us.

FOR TELEPHONE ORDERS PLEASE CALL: 01525 851945 (24HRS)



EQUESTRIANISM: GRANNUSCH'S NARROW WIN CONTINUES BRITISH RUN OF SUCCESS AT OLYMPIA

## Whitaker extends home rule with exciting victory

held the packed arena en-BRITISH riders continued their remarkable run of success at the Olympia showjumping championships vesterday when John Whitaker, on Virtual Village Grannusch, snatched victory from Bert Romp, of Holland, in the Champagne Taittinger curred an unippical four faults after taking a stride out at Christmas Carol Stakes. It was the eighth British win in nine international classes.

Whitaker, who has been riding like a man inspired in the purple colours of his new sponsor, Virtual Village, has won on each day of the show. "Olympia seems to bring out the best in us," he said. "It's the best British show and it's the end of the year, so we pull out all the stops." Romp, a member of the 1992 £2.200 to Grannusch's

Olympic gold medal-winning team, has also been pulling out all the stops, but to no avail. On Thursday night he thought that he and Burg's Samantha - the mare on which he won the La Baule Derby earlier this year — had the inaugural Vink Masters in the bag, only to be thwarted by Nick Skelton on his new horse, Virtual Village Zalza.

Yesterday was the third occasion in less than a month that Romp has been runner-up to Whitaker. "It was the same in Berlin and also here on the first night." Romp said. "I went my fastest, but John

Seven horses reached yesterday's jump-off, in which Skelton, on Zalza, was drawn first. The nine-year-old German-bred gelding, who had

thralled the previous night with his effortless jumping in the Masters, clipped the second part of the double to finish four faults. Ludger Beerbaum, Germany's 1992 Olympic champion, also in-

Romp made no mistakes and, with a time of 29.32sec, looked the likely winner. However, Whitaker is a dangerous man to be competing after you in a jump-off. A burst of applause greeted his arrival in the ring. Urged on by the partisan crowd, he took the most economical route round the six-fence course to finish in 20,20sec and add a further

£600,000 career winnings. The excitement did not end there as Jos Lansink, of Holland, last to go on Bachus Z. was half a second faster than Whitaker but hit the last.

"I just hope my luck doesn't run out before tomorrow," Whitaker said, referring to today's Volvo World Cup qualifier, the centrepiece of the five-day show, in which he will ride his Olympic horse, Virtual Village Welham, a winner on Thursday. Despite his numerous successes in qualifiers, most recently in Berlin last month, Whitaker has never won the Olympia .

qualifier. Skelton, who yesterday was still savouring his EI1,500 win in the Masters, will ride his 1995 World Cup winner, Dollar Girl, today in an attempt to avenge his defeat last year, by 0.01sec, at the hands of

Now that Zalza, a horse he started riding only six weeks ago, has displayed his ability "I had no idea he could jump that high." Skelton said on Thursday night), he may decide to ride him in the grand prix tomorrow, the final event of the show.

Earlier, Ben Dunning, a cousin of the former internashowjumper, Lionel, gained his biggest success when he won the young show jumper of the year on his eight-year-old mare, Miss Par-Piece, despite incurring three faults when he missed out a fence and had to turn

It was a moot point whether Dunning, 17, had been helped by the vociferous crowd who, realising that he was taking the wrong course, started shouting. It's an incredible atmosphere in there," Dunning said, "but you're not aware of anything the crowd

With the first four riders in the jump-off all incurring four faults. Dunning, the last to go. had been going for a slow clear round when he suddenly realised he had missed out fence seven. "I went back as quickly as I could to avoid time faults," he said. Geoff Glazzard, on Flelds Of Athenry, joined with John Renwick, on U Design Ronville, to win the Holly



Romp put in a fast clear round on Burg's Samantha but had to settle for second again.

TIMES WRITERS GIVE THEIR CHRISTMAS SELECTIONS OF THE BEST IN SPORTING LITERATURE IN 1996

## **Opportunity for look back to the future**

THE recent decision of the International Olympic Committee to expand the number of women's hockey teams at the next Olympic Games, in Sydney, from eight to ten should stir the memories of those who fought for the introduction. in 1980, of the women's game into the Olym-

Before this aim was fulfilled there were two controlling bodies, the International Federation of Women's Hockey Associations, consisting mainly of English-speaking nations, and those European associations which formed the International Hockey Federa-

#### HOCKEY

of Hockey's History, tells of how the merger was achieved by the eventual affiliation to the FIH. The reader is given an insight into the story of hockey's introduction to the Olympic Games and the formation of the FIH. with the takeover of the tames control from its British founders.

Howells, a former president of the Welsh Hockey Associa member of various committees of the FIH. He was deeply involved in the setting up, four tion (FIH).

A fascinating chapter of Ken
Howells's book, The Romance

years ago, of the Olympic
Hockey Museum in Lausaune. His experience has

enabled him to compile a history of hockey, depicting how the "jolly hockey sticks" image was transformed, with the help of royal patronage, into a highly respected competitive sport.

The changes in the rules include the abolition, in 1959, of the bully, which, though destroying the well-worn clicrie "butty for you", ata atuch to eliminate time-wasting on the field. The concept of artificial turf pitches which revolutation, has served the game as ionised the game is attributed an international player and as to Peter Buckland, a Canadian stockbroker whose club in Vancouver was called The Jokers.

Rene Frank, a former president of the FIH, who saw the first exhibition match on artifi-

#### cial turf, did not think that it was a joke and accepted the proposal to stage the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal on synthetic turf. That was the

beginning of the plastic age. The obscurity of the game's origins and the apocryphal tales connected with them date back to ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian civilisations, all mantic element of the book.

☐ The Romance of Hockey's History, by M K Howells (published by M K Howells, care of the Hockey Associated The Section 1997). ation, The Stadium, Milton Keynes, £10.00 plus £1.40

SYDNEY FRISKIN

### Book puts accent on sport's athleticism

INSPIRED by the top-rated American television pro-gramme of the same name, Championship Ballroom Dancing appeals to all those interested in dance sport, in which full Olympic recognition is expected soon.

Featuring full-page blackdancers on the floor and behind the scenes, it gives some understanding of the athleticism, grit and determination needed to make it to the top.

Particularly fascinating is the account of how the tango. when introduced from Argentina earlier this century, was banned in Boston because of

#### BALLROOM DANCING -

its sensuality. Only after it was methodically analysed and rendered orderly by the London-based Imperial Sociwas the tango accepted.

☐ Championship Ballroom Dancing, by Frank Regan and Gary Spencer (EAB Press, 7600 West 27th Street, Strite 210, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55426. Tel: 612-927-6603, \$60.00).

RUTH GLEDHILL also.

#### SAILING

#### Babcock to rescue as dismasting success threatens

BY MALCOLM MCKEAG

ANOTHER yacht in the BT Global Challenge fleet has narrowly avoided the dismasting that two nights ago befell Concert. In a reported 35 knots of breeze, Heath Insured II suffered a failure of the plate securing an intermediate shroud between the second and third spreaders.

The mast began to sag alarmingly to leeward, but Michael Babcock, on the wheel at the time, immediately threw the yacht about on to port tack, releasing the loads on the unsupported top mast. His quick-thinking undoubtedly saved the rig, which would have otherwise suffered in similar fashion to Concert. Heath Insured II was yes-terday still sailing on port tack virtually at right angles to the rest of the fleet and the direction she needs to go to get to Wellington, while her crew pondered lash-up repairs -

but she still has her mast. Yesterday the race commit-tee formally declared Concert a non-finisher on the second leg, allowing Chris Tibbs and his crew to concentrate on making Wellington in time for the restart in early February and avoiding the confusion — and even criticism — which surrounded the parallel predicament of the yacht British Steel on the race four years

Then, the dismasted yacht motored halfway across the Southern Ocean to the finish at Hobart. British Steel was allowed to count her time under motor as racing-time and allowed to continue racing without further penalty. It was a decision that caused reactions ranging from mirth

The prompt action of the race committee and the change to the rules that clarify the dismasted yacht's position and allow her to stay in the race with the chance at least of a high overall place - Concert is awarded the time of the last yacht to finish this leg plus 15 per cent - are further demonstrations of how this event has progressed in four years from being simply "the adventure of a lifetime" to a serious yacht

Group 4 is back in the lead, ahead of Save the Children, with 1,533 miles still to go to Wellington and advancing ome 200 miles a day. With the forecast predicting more high winds, Mike Golding, the Group 4 skipper, lies between the rock of pressing on to match his boast that he could make Wellington by Christmas and the hard place of easing up lest the continuing rigging failures around him afflict his yacht

## kendall ends the ingering doubts Confidence is key to Hickman's

By CRAIG LORD

DERYK SNELLING, the new national performance director for swimming, was happy to find his fears un-founded at the British championships in Sheffield yesterday as national shortcourse records from James Hickman and Andrew Clayton were the highlights on a day that produced performances worthy of selection for the world short-course

championships.
Snelling said at the European short-course championships in Rostock, Germany. last weekend, that qualifying standards - set before his arrival — for the world cham-pionships in Gothenburg, in April, might be too tough for him to honour a commitment to lead a full Great British team for the first time. He need not have worried.

Thirteen qualified on the first of three days of finals. Hickman, 18, shaved a further 0.27sec off the record he set in the heats to win the 100 metres butterfly in 53.03sec, good enough to have won him the title in Rostock, where the

winning time was 53.22sec. Coached by Dave Calleja at Stockport Metro, Hickman spoke in terms of "taking on" Denis Pankratov, the Russian who is Olympic and world champion over 100 metres and 200 metres at Gotherburg and at the European iong-course champiouships in August. "Iril be down to me against him by then," Hickman said confidently.

Two years ago Hickman stood at 73rd in the world on 55.27sec. He had got that down to 53.56sec earlier this year and finished sixth in the 200 metres in Atlanta. He now ranks eighth in the world and fifth in Europe over 100 metres short-course this year, and twentieth on the all-time

A prize of £200 will be given to winners in Sheffield, and bonuses to those who set world records. Hickman has that in mind for the 200 metres, the final of which he will race today.

Confidence also played a part for Clayton, 23, who in Rostock won the silver medal in the 200 metres freestyle. His time yesterday, lmin 46.70sec, would not have promoted him to the gold medal first British record, inside the Imin 46.71sec set by Paul Howe in 1991, and victory over an unfit Paul Palmer, the winner of the silver medal in the 400 metres in Atlanta.

With lottery funding imminent, Clayton is about to give up his part-time position as a graphic designer for sponsor-ship by Yorkshire Water.

#### AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER WITH

#### THE NOW PRINTED IN CHARLEROI

Make your



Set up a subscription to The Times for them at substantial discounts off local cover price and let them enjoy early morning delivery on the day of publication.
SINGLE DAY SUBSCRIPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE.

The Times. Your family and friends are missing the best of quality reading without it.

kery si avalizble as lollows: Belgium —mam celes: France — Parts and postcodes 92, 93, 94, Luxerabourg — rationwide, same day delivery by post: Netherlands — main cales, Switzerfand — Geneva, Bern & Zurich, Mail delivery is usually one day late. Please call for details on hand delivery areas and mail delivery

HAND DELIVERY DATES (except Sect of Europa)

			Saurgs			Single Day	
Country	Currency	12 mortins	Darce Cui COMO.	- 6 months	3 promits	(Marx-Pil) 1 year	9t
Belgium	(BFr)	13698	45%	7534	3938	2283	332
France	(Ffri	1985	55%	1091	571	331	50
Treemports	(LFr)	9164	51%	5040	2635	1527	261
Nehelanis	(DFI)	778	45%	426	224	130	M
Switzerland	(SFr)	809	35%	445	232	135	17
Rest of Europe	(E)	474	r/a	237	118.5	79.04	13

CHANGING TIMES

Other day(s) - Pease specify\_

Conditional (1) | Wasse | March

Amer No.

S GENERAL PROPERTY.

#### IN BRIEF Under-19s shine in

**Pakistan** 

ENGLAND took control of the second under-19 cricket international against Pakistan in Sheikhupura yesterday, led by David Nash, of Middlesex, who hit a sparkling 108 not out. England reached 361. then Alex Tudor and Ben Hollioake, the Surrey bowlers, tore into Pakistan, who collapsed to 95 for six by the close of the second day of four.

Brian Lara hit 86 before he was controversially given out on the second day of West

Indies four-day match against Victoria in Wangarana. Lara was given "hit wicket", but officials claimed that the batsman's foot disturbed the stumps as he set off for a run. The touring side finished on 312 for five, in reply to Victoria's first innings of 354.

☐ Cycling: Andy Wilkinson has been awarded the Bidlake Memorial Plaque for the outstanding performance of the year. Wilkinson, 33, from Cheshire, set national timetrial records for 50 miles, 100 miles and 12 hours to win the British best all-rounder title.

☐ Athletics: Paul Tergat, of Kenya, the double world champion, and Gete Wami. of Ethiopia, the women's titleholder, will head a line-up of leading runners at the opening cross country challenge meet of the II-event IAAF World Challenge in Brussels tomorrow. Great Britain will be represented by Keith Cullen\_

☐ Motor rallying: Richard Burns, of Great Britain, will race for the Mitsubishi team again in the 1997 FIA world championship.

## MATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBAI: To-ronto 98 Minaukee 83, Chicago 83 Charlotte 72, Utah 94 Miame 87, Sai Antonio 115 Houston 101, Dalas 105 Vancouver 98, Washington 102 Los Angeles Cippers 92, Sacramento 112 Minimocita 105

CRICKET

TOUR MATCHES: second day of four Wangaratta: Victoria 354 G Victoria 134 D S Berry 50 N A M Mol. am 5-45). West Indians 312-5 (S L Cambel 30 B C Lara 86). Hobert Pakustars 299 'S hand Afrid 80 Mushtag Ahmed 65 S troung 7-64: Taxmenia 292-6 J C Car. 191 not out. Mushtag Ahmed 4-97; SHGFFIELD SHELD. Bendame (second day of four). New South Wass 130 IS R Waugh 55, A J Bicha 6-56, Cueenstand 480-6 IS G Law 144. J P Mater 91 I A Heaty 82 not out. A Symptos 50, Perth (first day of four). South Australia 231-8 J A Braychaw 73 D S Letterant 52; SHEIKHUPURA: Under-19 instrusional (second day of four). England 361 (D Nach 108 not out S Peters 74; Razzag 7-118). Pakistan 95-6

EQUESTRIANISM

OLYMPIA: Olympia: Championships: Eurosport Missieloe Take Your Own Line: 1. Virtual Marge Soutane (G. Bilington GB, 27 03sec 2. S.P. Nikata & Stoothaak, Ger.; 27 72. 3. Afresco Lat (P. Charles, Irel 38 22. Virtik Christmas Masters, 1. Virtual Wrage Zatra (N. Swelton, GBI G. Pis. eq., a. Z. Burg's Samantha (B. Romp, Irel), and Price Wood (J. Fisher GB) 4. Champagine Taltimiger Christmas Carol Stakes; 1. Virtual Wrage Grannusch (J. Virtual GB), and Frice Wood (J. Fisher GB) 4. Champagine Taltimiger Christmas Carol Stakes; 1. Virtual Wrage Grannusch (J. Withshie GB), 0. fts. 292 1sec. 2. Burg's Samantha (B. Romp, Holl) (J. 29 32, 3. India Katal (J. Washers, Bell (J. S. S. 3. Holly Paris Reford, T. Fietzs of Athemy (G. Grazzant); and U. Design Romale (J. Rommick, GB), Irina 192 25eco. 2. Reggae (C.O. Nagel, Ger.) and Prologo s Dumbo (F. Firmenn, Austra) (1. 1221). 3. Gordon Goodeme Vir Furnell, GB) and Yong Internew (T. Spockala GB) (120 74 Speedline Telecom Young Showjumper of the Year 1, Mas Parly Proce (B. Dumbing) 5. fts., 54 47 spc. 2. Imata (B. Twomsy) 4. 38 74

FOOTBALL

Late results on Thursday AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arbena C Wimbledon 2. Southampton 4 West Ham United 5 PONTINS LEAGUE CUP: Group three: Stockport County 1 Stoke Chy 2 FALHARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Home Farm 0 Sharrooch 0 FA YOUTH CUP: Socond round replay: Liston Town 3 Oxford United 2 SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fujifilm Trophy: Fourth round replays: Chesterield 0 East Friding 3 South Chesterield 1 (South Chestere won Chesnite i Harich I (SOLET Chesnite Won on pens)
ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Huracan-Comentes 3 Independiente 2: Racing Culo i Patanas (; Racing Patra 3 Veta Santiale (); Rasano Centra 4 Socia Juniors 2; San Lorento 1 Germania La Patra 2: Santiale II (Santiale II)

FRENCH LEAGUE Books 3 Bordeaus 1

DELHI; Women's Indira Gandhi Gold Cup: Chine 2 India 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 3 Tampe Bay 0; Ottawa 5 Flonde 2; Philadelphia 5 New York Islanders 0; Pittsburgh 4 St Louis 0. MOSCOW: Izvestia Cup: Sweden 3 Finland 1: Russia 6 Careda 0: Czech Republic 3 Canada 1.

RACKETS CUEEN'S CLUB: Public achools championship: Foster Cup: Final: A Tachener-Barret (Harrow) bt G Small: Application (Elon) 15-3, 18-16 11-15, 15-9. Remny Cup: Final: S Farbarm (Cheltenham) bt Wilson (Harrow) 4-15, 15-8. 15-10, 15-12.

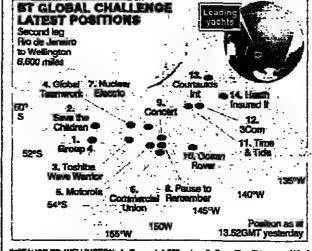
TiGNES, France: University metch: Gaint statom: Men: 1, M Sandeli (Oxford) 2mm 44 93sec. 2, N Luther (Oxford) 245 47: 3, M Smth (Cambridge) 246; 18 Women (all Oxford): 1, M Shaw 2 48 35; 2, C Williams 2 52.77. 3, H Murray 267 54 Teems: Men: 1, Oxford 72 182 2, Cambridge 7:29 13, Women: 1, Oxford 8 38 56, 2, Cambridge 9 27 57 8 38 6b, 2, Cambridge 9 27 97 VAL GARDENA, Italy: Men's World Cup: Downhait 1, L. Alphand (P1) Inten 53 10sec; 2, A Sicarcal (Nor) 1,53 25; 3, K. Ghechra (f) 1,53 30; 4, P. Vitaira (t) 1,53 34; 5, A Duvilland (Fr) 1,53 48, 6, F Cavegn (Switz) 1,63 76; 7, W. Franz (Austria) 1,55 88, 8, F. Shobi (Austria) 1,53 93, 9, H. Knaus (Austria) 1,53 99; 10, W. Peralhoner (it) 1,54 00 British positione: 42, G Bell 1:56.25, 83, A Freshweier 1:57.22. World Cup positions: Downhill (after two races). 1, Alphand 140pts; 2. Stroot 132; 3. Franz 1:16. Overall (after nine races): 1, Knaus 328, 2, T Sykore (Austria) 282; 3, K Aarmoot (Nov). 280; 4, M von Grüngen (Switz) 231; 5, S Locher (Switz) 275; 6, C Mayer (Austria) 207. CRANS MONTANA, Switzerland: Worner's World Cup: Downhill: cancelled because of rain and log. TABLE TENNIS

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Super division: Semi-final, first leg (in Berlin) Germany bt England 4-1 (J Schopp bit H Lower 21-5, 21-13, E Schall bt L Lomas 21-19, 15-21, 21-18, O Nemes lost to A Holt 20-22, 15-21; Schopp and Nemes bt Lomas and Holt 21-13, 13-21, 21-15, Schopp bt Lomes 18-21, 22-20, 21-13). TENNIS

MIAMI BEACH: Orange Bowl cham-pionships: Boys: 18 and under: Fourth round: A Martin (Sp) bt M Lee (GB) 7-6.

SWIMMING

SHEFFIELD: Uncle Ben's British winter championships: Men: 200m freestyle: 1, A Clayon (Leeds) rinn 48 70sec (British record). 2, M Stevens (Satelite); 1:48 09; 3, G Meadows (Leeds); 1:48 24; 4, J Selter (Wamender); 1:48 53; 5, G Smith (Stockport); 150 36, A Woods (Novinch); 1:50; 8, 7, P Patrier (Uncotn); 1:51 06, 8, G Hudson (Portsmouth); 1:53:39, 1:500m freestyle: 1, I Wisson (Leods); 14:47 73; 2, G Hudson (Portsmouth); 15:29:44, T Archer (Nova Certunon); 15:44:61; 6, L Wardell (Loughborough); 15:55:74, 7, P Boyes (Barthysod); 16:21:90, 8, S Saundors (Trosm); 16:22:42, 50m backstroke: 1, M Harris (Tower Hamless)



DISTANCE TO WELLINGTON: 1. Group 4.1,533 miles: 2. Save The Children 1,586; 3. Toshiba Wave Warror 1,626; 4. Global Tearmenth 1,656; 5. Motorola 1,659; 6. Commercial Union 1,713, 7. Nuclear Electric 1,725, 8, Pause To Remember 1,735; 9. Concert, 1,746; 10, Coetan Rover 1,828; 11, Time 8. Tide 1,904; 12, 3Com 1,933, 13, Courtsuids International 1,970; 14, Heath Insured & 1,990.

25.38eac; 2, N Wiley (Birmet) 25.88; 3, 8 Handley (Bristol) 25.94; 4, A O'Connor (re) 25.06; 5, W van der Akter (Hot) 26.22; 8, T Filey (Manchester Unsted/Safford) 23.41; 7, K Gammon (Devon Allanto) 26.63; 8, M Smallbone (Loughborough) 26.73; 100m betterfly; 1, J Hickman (Stockport) 53.03 (British record); 2, P Krmyldh (Ukr) 53.98; 3, J Goljeonic (Sheffeld) 54.44; 4, M Watikha (Torfsen) 55.23; 6, D Cair (Sheffeld) 55.52; 6, S Brinn (Jam) 55.65; 7, P McCarthy (he) 55.57; 8, S Brinn (Jam) 56.08; Warmen: 200m freestyler; 1, C Huddart (Leads) 2min 00.08ec; 2, K Pickering (Ipswich) 200.09; 3; K Hawcroll (Manchester Utd/Sallord) 200.62; 4, L Nicholls (Can) 201.07; 6, J Betton (Bradford) 201.73; 8, V Homer (Stockport) 202.99; 7, 8 Collings (Bradford) 203.59; 100m breesstraduse; 1, M Beans (Holl) 108.93;

FOR THE RECORD 2. J King (Walthern Forest) 1:09.12: 3. L. Hindmarsh (Leeds) 1:10.86; 4, N Thornies (Manchaster Utrd/Sallord) 1:10.91; 5, H. Earp (Newcastle) 1:10.93; 6, S Lawrence (Fillingdon) 1:12.47; 7, R Marths (Can) 1:13.34, S Whewell (Newcastle) disquell-fied 200m backstroke: 1, J Deakins (Coventry) 2:11.91; 2, Z Cmy (toswich) 2:13.97; 3, K Thornson (Leeds) 2:14.21, 4, K Oeher (Ealing) 2:14.23; 6, H Barnes (Maxwell) 2:15.69; 7, W Greaves (Loughborough) 2:17.38; 8, N Casrley (Ire) 2:16.02; 400m individual mediev; 1, Craham (Coventry) 4:47.8; 3, S Nesbit (Portamouth) 4:48.94; 4, J Swallow (Killeruhais) 4:50.17; 5, M Thorn (Devon Atlanbo); 4:50.17; 5, T Walternes (Stocklon) 4:57.51; 7, T Evanson (Harropale); 4:59.78; 8, N Brown (Southand); 4:59.98.

## SNOYTHEPORTS

Conditions Runs to Soldeu 5 140 fair varied (cy ( (All pistes open; high and sunny runs beat) fine -3 18/12 AUSTRIA

5 40 ter vaned art tair 2 14/12 (Upper slopes still reasonably good; 40 of 60 lifts open) Kitzbühel 40 150 good heavy good snow 0 20/12 (Good sking at all levels; dusting of new snow)
35 60 hard varied fair cloud 1 2/12 (Hard-packed snow on most pistes; all lifts open) St Arron 60 190 good varied fair cloud 2 14/12 (Generally good but lowest runs gatting heavy)

FRANCE 2 90 250 good heavy good cloud 0 20/12 (Very good sking throughout resort; avalanche danger) Alpe d'huez 130 150 good heavy lak cloud 0 19/12 (Some new snow above 1,800 metres, heavy and wet below) 80 165 good heavy tair cloud 3 20/12 (Resort fully open today; new snow on upper runs) Meribel .180 240 good powder good cloud 0 19/12 (Excellent powder skiing; 15cm of tresh snow) Val Thorens ITALY

115 245 good heavy good cloud 1 19/12 (Majority of pistes in good shape and well covered) Cervina 100 240 good varied good cloud 2 19/12 (Good skiing on most pistes: all lifts open) Livigno SWITZERLAND

40 135 good heavy stushy cloud 2 20/12 (New snow above 1600 metres; heavy below) **Klosters** 60 120 good heavy slushy cloud 1 20/12 (Lowest runs rain-wetted; good above 1,800 metres) Mümen 75 310 good varied good cloud -1 19/12 (Good skiing but visibility very poor at turnes) 85 210 good varied good cloud 0 20/12 (Vary good skiing; all lifts open) St Montz

> Source: Siri Club of Great Britain ·· L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

-

--..:

FOOTBALL: MANAGERIAL PEDIGREE PROMINENT IN SHEFFIELD UNITED'S PUSH FOR THE PREMIERSHIP

## Kendall ends the lingering doubts

Richard Hobson talks to the man who

has raised expectations at Bramall Lane

ever mind the Theatre of Dreams. The business of football more often unfolds in the Theatre of the Absurd. It is an insular world of miscast players, fluffed lines, poor direction and petty jealousy. So much mis-information gushes from within, so much rumour masquerading as fact, that the most reasonable opinion of the day can appear ridiculous in time. Looking back, it is extraordinary now that any-body could have doubted Howard Kendall when he returned to league manage-ment with Sheffield United just a year and a week ago.
His transformation of

Everton in the mid-Eighties, winning two league titles as well as the European Cup Winners' Cup, made him the Football Association's second choice behind Graham Taylor to succeed Bobby Robson after the 1990 World Cup. Ray, Wilkins, for one, suggested he might be a decent choice to succeed Terry Venables.

These are the credentials of a man admired by his peers, not one whose appointment to a club then second from bottom of the first division should have been questioned. Twelve months on, a different line is being pursued: "Howard, could your side survive in

The uncertainty of the time stemmed from the nadir of his career. In April of last year he was sacked after 79 days in charge of Notts County amid allegations of heavy drinking. The accusations so angered Kendall that he threatened legal action before deciding that the cost of civil action was prohibitive. He admits that he remains bitter.

However, in the weeks that followed he realised that some of the mud would stick. He cultivated a taste for mineral and lost two stone in consequence. "Notts County was a mistake," Kendall said. "Most people who have gone there would say it was a mistake because of the working conditions. It was an upsetting, can say is that we are among short period of time but when. "

you put it in the overall context of my years in the game it was just a minor hiccup

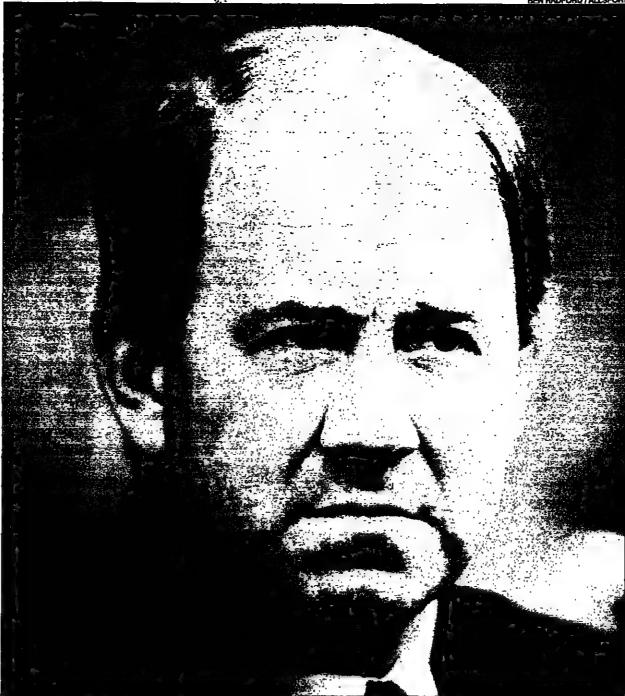
Kendall, if he chooses, is entitled to raise a glass this morning. Conveniently, United have played 48 league games under his charge and the 86 points they have accumulated indicate a promotionwinning standard. Extensive building work at Bramall present share flotation, Kendall felt able to bid audacious-ly for Paul Gascoigne last month as he sought a player to

"The problem is that there have been so many disappointments at this club in the past, so many broken promises, that people are perhaps a little reluctant to trust us," he said. "All I can say is that the chairman [Mike McDonald] is very ambitious and everything he says he will do, gets done." So much so that McDonald refused Manchester City permission to speak to his manager as they tried to replace Alan

When United face Barnsley at Bramall Lane today, top spot in the table beckons and the side will offer little reminder of Kendall's predecessor, Dave Bassett. Players have come and gone at a brisk rate, but there is a thread of quality through the team.

Significantly, Gordon signings last December and, although the midfield player attrough the middled player left for Bradford over the summer, it signalled Kendall's intention to play his way out of trouble. The forward line of Andy Walker, Gareth Taylor and Petr Katchouro, a Belarus international, is one of the strongest in the division, while Michel Vonk is a redoubtable, old-fashioned stopper and Don Hutchison the sort of creative player who would be

The division is much of a muchness," Kendall said, "A lot of clubs are desperate to get into the Premiership because the rewards are so great. All I



Kendall remains bitter about his sacking by Notts County but has rebuilt his career with Sheffield United

## Stoichkov threat to spurn Bulgaria

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HRISTO STOICHKOV, the volatile Bulgaria striker, may have played his last game for his country. His demand for changes to the Bulgarian Football Union's hierarchy appeared to have fallen on deaf cars yesterday when Ivan Slavkov was re-elected president at an extraordinary congress, called after complaints about the union man-

Stoichkov, who flew from Barcelona to attend the con gress as a guest, left before the results of the vote were announced, but had insisted he would stop playing for the national side if the management was not replaced.

officials for dismissing Dimitar Peney, the former coach, and dropping his nephew, Lyuboslav Penev, from the national team.

He also criticised the union for accommodating the team at "a low standard" hotel in Scarborough during the European championships. "A liquidation of the national soccer team has been per-formed within the last year," Stoichkov told the congress. Asked whether Stoichkov's

ional team, Slavkov said: This is not a grocery. It is up to him whether he plays." Slavkov's re-appointment head coach of the national

with whom he was unable to

Real Madrid have signed Ze Roberto, the Brazil international, from Portuguesa for an undisclosed fee, the club's first signing since the Spanish transfer market reopened on Sunday. Lorenzo Sanz, the club president, also hopes to secure the services of Thierry Henry, from Monaco, and of the Sampdoria midfield player, Christian Karembeu, before the market closes on

January 15. Deportivo Coruña had the one match closure of their Riazor stadium suspended yesterday after taking their case to a Spanish civil court. Deportivo can now play Bar-Stoichkov, widely recog-nised as Bulgaria's most gift-that he would resign if the The closure was imposed in

struck in the face by a coin thrown from the crowd.

Terry Venables, the former England coach, yesterday named a squad comprised solely of home-based players for his first three matches in charge of the Australia national team. Venables will use the four-nations series, with games in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney from January 18 to 26, to assess locallybased players before the World Cup qualifiers.

New Zealand collectively give us high quality competition and different playing styles," Venables said. "It is an ideal opportunity for our players to demonstrate their ability against different and good opposition."

## **Loyal Dodds** opts to stay at Pittodrie

By KEVIN McCarra

HE MAY not quite have defied the laws of gravity, but Billy Dodds did reverse the natural order yesterday. The Aberdeen forward, who has scored 18 goals in the most successful season of his life. agreed a new deal with the club that will keep him at Pittodrie until 1999. This was a flagrant infringement of the principles that govern the football world since the Bosman ruling.

At 27, he has never been so marketable and, with his contract ending next summer, it would consider a lucrative move to the Continent. Dodds, however, has clearly noted the progress he has made since signing, from St Johnstone, in 1994 for £800,000.

He is a more mature player nowadays and earned his first cap for Scotland, as a substitute against Latvia in the World Cup qualifier. Aber-deen will be delighted, and perhaps surprised, to find that their powers of persuasion have proved effective. Other members of the

squad, including Scott Booth, are also out of contract in June, but the club may now feel that the process of disintegration is not inevitable. Roy Aitken's team travels to Rugby Park today to meet Kilmarnock, who are presently in the hands of a caretaker manager. Bobby Williamson. The Ayr shire club are rumoured to be

considering appointing Mark
Hateley, the Queens Park
Rangers forward, to the post.
Uncertainty of a different
variety engulfs Celtic, where
the saga of Pierre van
Hooijdonk may just be limping towards a conclusion. The club's leading scorer has been in financial dispute with his employers and his reaction to a new offer has caused controversy. "Maybe OK for the homeless, but not for an international striker," the Dutchman said after terms of

£7,000 a week were proposed. The remark was, at the very least, tasteless and the club is now willing to sell him. Jorien van den Herik, the Feyenoord chairman, is keen to buy, but a valuation of around £4 million could prove a deterrent.

Phil O'Donnell could play for Celtic for the first time come a lingering thigh strain. Dundee United, their visitors, one of their past 12 matches. Three Scandinavian signings have added experience and the

pace of Robbie Winters and Andy McLaren in attack could

Tommy Burns's team can hardly accept anything less than victory. They are already 14 points behind Rangers and the thought of the three games they hold in hand provides only a modest consolation. Rangers themselves will feel a degree of apprehension over today's trip to Tynecastle. having lost to Hearts there last

The Edinburgh club, however, have Pasquale Bruno suspended and five other players doubtful through injury. Hearts are also facing a Rangers side who seem to be acquiring a keener edge in attack.

Erik Bo Andersen scored a hat-trick in the 4-2 victory over Kilmarnock on Tuesday and he now vies with Ally McCoist for a place in the side, Choos-ing between such players is



Van Hooijdonk: offensive

the kind of dilemma other managers envy.

Jocky Scott is in charge of Hibernian only on a caretaker basis and he must reverse his team's declining form if he is to retain any hope of keeping the job. Today, they journey to Raith Rovers. At Fir Park, too, there may be faint feelings of anxiety since Motherwell and Dunfermline will recognise

that the avoidance of relega-

tion remains the prime objec-

tive this season.

No matter the worries of the men at those clubs, their plight is far less severe than that of Eamonn Bannon. Yesterday he was sacked as Falkirk manager after fielding Clark, who scored the winning goal in a match with St Mirren last month. On Thurs-League ordered the fixture to be replayed and fined Falkirk £25,000. Now Bannon, too, has paid the penalty.

#### COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

# Kick-off 3 0 unless stated denous al-ticker mask First division (9) Crystal Palace v Charlion (10) Grinsby v Bradford (11) Huddersteld v QPR (12) Ipsinich v Stoke (13) Oldham v Manchester City (14) Port Vale v Norwich (15) Reading v Portsmouth (16) Sheffield Utd v Bamsley (17) Trannere v Wolverhampton (18) West Brommich v Oxford Utd P W D L F A Pts P N D L F A Pts

SALAN SENCETE

(not including last right's match)
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier divisiont
Beldock v Halesowert: Cambridge C v
Morcester C, Chelmstord v Ashford;
Cheltenhern v Merthyr: Dorchester v Buston.
Gravesend and Northitiest v Sudbury T;
Gravley Hastings, Newport AFC v Atherstone, Nuneaton v Gloucester; Stitinghourne
v Crayley Mildland division; Biston v Vs
Rugby: Durlew T v Grantham: Evenham v v Crawley Middland division; Bilston, v VS Ruchy, Dudley T v Grantham; Ewerhem v Oarly, Huckley T v Beckworth; Bieston v Stoptared D. Moor Green v Stouthridge; Page R v Rethwell; RC Waswet v Softwall Boro, Stafford v Redditch, Southern division; Buckingham T v Weymouth; Cirencester I v Danflord; Cleredon v Rever T; Erith and Beledere v Condefford; Fareham v Westen-super Mare; Havard v Torchridge Angels, Margele v Forest Green; St Leonard, Waterlooville; Trowbridge T v Bashwy, Weste v Fisher London; Yate T v Newport (GW).

(20) Brentford (21) * Bristol (22) Bury v S (23) Chesteri (24) Rotherha (25) Watford	ot v York  iv Preston  Rovers v Wyoombe  tockport  ield v Boumemouth  m v Plymouth  v Gillingham  v Bristol City
	PWDL F APE
Luion	23 13 4 6 41 25 43
Bremtord	23 12 7 4 37 24 48
Milwell	24 11 8 6 33 24 41 22 11 7 4 35 29 40
Bury Burriey	23 11 4 8 31 24 37
Charles	92 10 7 A 92 25 37
Wattord	22 9 10 3 25 19 37
Chesterfield	22 9 10 3 25 19 37 22 11 4 7 22 17 37 21 9 6 4 27 23 35
Wiednam	21 9 6 4 27 23 35 22 9 7 6 37 24 34
Bristol City Crews	22 9 7 6 37 24 34 22 11 1 10 29 27 34
York .	07 B E D 04 9D 9D
Bristol Rovers	23 7 8 8 23 24 29
Shrewsbury	23 7 7 9 28 35 28
Preston	23 8 4 11 24 27 28 23 7 5 11 23 29 26
Gillingham Walsali	23 7 5 11 23 29 26 22 7 5 10 22 25 25
Bournemouth	23 7 5 11 21 28 28
Blackpool	23 5 10 8 22 27 25
Phymouth	23 5 9 9 26 39 24
Peterbarouch	23 4 9 10 32 41 21 22 5 6 11 15 23 21
Notes County Wycombe	22 5 6 11 15 23 21 23 6 5 13 18 33 20
Rotherham	22 3 7 12 18 33 16
tnot includ	ing lest night's metches)
Third division	
	Chester
(St) Cautill A	Mansfield
(29) Carisia	Scunithorpe
(30) Darlingto	vi v Torcuav
(31) Exeter v	Swansea
(32) Hartispo	ol v Lincoln
(33) Hull v Do	mcasier
(34) Scarbort	ough v Fulham

Vaugma Consames

(36) Bath v Slevensge
(37) Bromsgrove v Famborough

(38) Dover v Stalyonidge

— Heyes v Kettering

— Hednesford v Getsehaad

— Morecaribe v Afrinchem

— Pushden & D v Kidderminster

— Woking v Haliax

— SACHE Previer (fivision) (—) Woking v Halflax
(ANBOND LEAGLE: Prinnier division:
Bernber Bridge v Wittorn Beisbop Auckland v
Runcome Buston v Lencaster, Colwyn Bay v
Ernley, Frichley v Knowsley, Gejresborough
v Benow, Guiseloy v Chorley, Hyde v
Boston, Leek v Accordigen Stanley,
Winstord v Blyin Sparante, Friet division:
Ashron Litid v Leigh; Droyfaden v
Stockstridge PS; Eestwood T v
Worklangton, Faniley Cellic v Uncoin Utid;
Great Harwood v Gretne; Harrogate T v
Worksop, Redolfite v Athenian LIS; Whilley
Bay v Bradford Park Avenue.

# Premier division (—) Clydebank v East Rie ..... (44) String v Airdrie .....

WELSH CUP: Fourth round; Aberystwyth v
Blobw Vale; Barry v Cernaes Bay; Briton
Ferry v BP Llandercy; Caemarton v Corney
(2.30), Grange Culins v Cernbran (2.0),
Maesteg Pari, v Holywelt, Porth Tywyn v
Caergws (2.0); Porthcaul T v Port Talbet
(2.0).

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Amersham v Naringay, Beaconsfield SYCOB v Hanwell; Brimsdown v Croydon; Brook House v Waltham Abbey, Harefield v Hillingdon Bord; S Margaretsbury v Cocklosiers Harry COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES: Pre-mier deletion: Ach v Herrley Withney. Bedfont v Wilding Sports, Chipstead v Sandhust; Cobhern v Fetham; Corribten-Casuels v Westfield; Carallegh v Farnham; Mersham v Astriord; Reyntae Park Vale v Retheme; Resaling v Covt, Welton Casuels v Godelming and Gualdord SCHEWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premise-division: Bidesord v Mangossfield, Bridgeser v Brisington; Celne v Bridgon; Cherd v Torington; Odd Down v Taurion; Paulton R v Barnstripk; Westbury v Tworton, Lee Phillips Cup; First round: Credeon v Keynsham.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First di-vision: Totion v Gospoc; Aerosinuchires v East Cowes: Bournemouth v Thalcham, Brotherhurst v Petersfield; Christohurch v Berterlori Heath; Cowes Sports v Ports-mouth; Downton v Whitchurch ; Eastleigh v BAT; Portsey v Ryde Sports; Wintsome Ibem v Anobest

IDMLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First division: Burgass Hill v Shoreham; East-bourne if v Hassacks; Langney Sports Arundel; Celewood v Selsey; Peacetaven and Telscombe v Horsham YMCA Portfield v Mile Calc; Southwick v Pagham; Three Bridges v Halsham, Whitehawk v Rangmar; Wick v Saidrean

Winistroni, Ead Went League: First influsions Charlesm v Transachment; Combian v Furness; Concerniti v Whisstable; Deal v Canierbury; Folkestone Invita v Turbridge Wells; Hame Bay v Cray; Sheppey v Lordswood; Sade Gray; V Eversham; Ramagae v Woolwich. Faversham, Ramsgate v Wootwich.

LIMILIAPORT LIMITED COUNTIES LEAGUE:
Premier division: Cogenhou v (krmpston. M.
Blackstons v Bourne, Newport Pagnell v
Wootton; N. Spencer v Long Burdby;
Spatioring v Hobsech, S and L. Corby v
Potton; Wellinghorough v Stamford, Cup;
Second round: Boston v St. Neots;
Symeobury v Decborough; Ford Sports v
Biotolid.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALL ANCE: Barwell v Rocesser; Behanhall ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMSINATIONS Premier divisions Avecturch v Meir Kas

BANKS'S BREWERY LIACUP Promise divinion; Bloowich S v Wolverhampton C; Crediey T v Wolverhampton C; Crediey T v Wolverhampton Ltd; Gomei Res v Hill Top R; Lye T v Malvern T; Stourport S v Darfaston; Tividale v Stalford T; Walsall Wood v Ludiow T; Westfalds v Wednesfield. NOTITH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Firm division: Checkerton v Prescot Cables, Kidagrave v Blackpool R; Seitord y Manne Road; St Helena v Rossendate League Cupt: Second round: Eastwood H v Burscough, Maghulf v Glossop North End; Mossey v Catherole, Permith v Atherton Collenes, Tetley Walter v Holter OB, Tratford v Danwen; Vauchall GM v Nantwich. MORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armitrorpe Weltare v Hatfield Main, Armoti v Ossett Trr. Astfield v Thatsidey, Belper T v Picketing, Brog T v Glasshoughton Weltare, Hallam v Sheffield: Maltby MW Liversedge, Pontafract Cols v Deneby, Setby v North Ferritay

PEDIENATION BREWERY MORTHERN
LEAGUE: First division: Chesser-le-Street v
West Auckland: Crook v South Sheids,
Gusborough v Billinghart, Marton v
Dunston Federation, FiTM Newcaste v
Easngion: Seaharn Red Star v Morpath:
Shidon v Whicham, Tow Law v Consult.
Whitby v Duntern. writtoy v Dumarn.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUS: Premier di-vision: Cithorwile v Luffeld; Colerane v Portadown, Glenevon v Arts; Glenforan v Crusaders First division: Bellycler v Newy; Bengor v Distillary, Lame v Ballymena. Omagn v Camck.

Ballymena. Omegi v Carino.
PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND
LEAGUE: Brora v Wick, Academy,
Deveronnate v Bucker Thistle: Eldin v
Lossiemouth, Fort Welliam v Clacinacuctin, Fresenburgh v Poterhead; Huntily
u Chan

V Cove
SDUTH EAST COUNTIES: Fine covering
Cambridge: United v Cheriton Ameleic
(11 0) Chelsee v Tottlerham Hotspur
(11 0), Futham v Milleral (11.0), Gallengham
v Queens Park Rangers (10.45), Levion
Onem v Arsenal (11 0); Southernd United v
Nonuch City (11 0); Webstord v Porshouth
(11 0), Wess Ham United v lossisch Town
(11 0); Second division: Sernet v Wycombe
Wanderers (11 0); Crystal Palace v Colchester United (11 0); Luron Town v Brost
(11 0); Seading v Southampton (11 0)
Swindon Town v Brighton (11 0); Totenham
Hotspur v Bristol City (11 0); Wimbledon v
Bournemouth (11 0) ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: First round proper: Caritusans v Matvernaris, Haberdeshers' v Selopems Replays: Foresters v Cnolmeleans. Williams v Harrovians Prameer division: Chigwellians v Brentwoods.

DLD BOYS' LEAGUE Promier divelont Old Hamptonens v Clapham OX. Old Ignetians v Old Kingsburians; Old Valughamsens v Old Meadomans MOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE Senior first division: Albenian v Southgate County, Hale End Ath v Parkfield. Old Finchlears v

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership Asion Villa v Wimbledon (4.0) . . . .. Nationwide League Swindon v Bolton (2 10) ... Tiviral division Leyton Orient v Brighton (12 30) ....... FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Bray v Sigo (2.0); Deny v Bohemens (3.15).

MIDLANDS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: Finals: Barlard T. Stoupport and two qualifiers (at The Glades, Kudderminsker, 10.20). NATIONAL LEAGUE Men: First division: Guildord v Westminster (7:30); Liverpool v Cardiff (3:30), Stockton v Ware (4:0)

Pilkington Cup Bristol v Blackheath (3.0) Newcastle v West Hartlepool (2.0) SRU Inter-district championship 

RUGBY LEAGUE Sik Cut Challenge Cup First round Blackpool v Haydock . ...... Saddleworth v Ellenborough

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE Firm division: Carsnetton v Nat West Bank Norsemen v Old Permientans: Old Esthermanna v Chouch End Vempe; Polytechnic v Chol Service. South Bank v Old Actionisms.

technic v Civil Service: South Bank v Old Actorians

SCHOOLS MATCHES (Nick-oil 10.30 unless stated) FA Premier Leguli Trophy: Under-18: Essay v Sussex (11.30); Surfolk v Cambridgeshire. English Knowles Cup: Under-18: Esser v Sussex (11.30); Surfolk v Cambridgeshire. English Knowles Cup: Under-18: Esser v Sussex: Surfolk v Cambridgeshire. English Knowles Cup: Under-18: Esser v Sussex: Surfolk v Cambridgeshire. Arsenal Trophy: South London v Blackheath Essex Walsh Shield: Harlow v Redoridge Wagner Trophy: Barbong v South Northartis Kay Trophy: Bermond-tory v Hackney Star Shield: Enfleid v Hallingdon. BP League: Bristol v Southampton, Sermond-tory v Heckney Star Shield: Enfleid v Hallingdon. BP League: Bristol v Southampton, Swindon v Oxford: Geoport v Reading. Goodhand Trophy: Grimsby v Nottingham v Oxford: Geoport v Reading. Goodhand Trophy: Grimsby v Nottingham Vorlishine Trophy: Hull v Leeds Jurior Star League: Wakefield v South Notis. Notis Cup: Final: Notingham A v Eastwood. West Vortshire League: Hudderslield v Sheffield. Vernon League: Cosby v Wirrat: Presidin v Chester: Liverpool v Boolle: St Helens v Kirtby. Inter-essociation: Sheffield v Hudderslield. Wakefield v South Notis Green Trophy: MacClesfield v Otcham. Wennal Trophy: South Ribble v Black-pool. Inter Town Challenge: Bury v Blackool v Ornshire Trophy: Hull v Leeds. Manchester Cup: South Ribble v Black-pool v Sefton Staffordshire League: Burlon v Stockport V Iratiord Alcock Cup: Hation v Stockport Snowdon Cup: Liverpool v Sefton Staffordshire League: Burlon v Wokerhampton West Midlands League: Under-16: Nuneaton v Kings Norton and S Brinnightern.

BASKETBALE
BUDWESSER LEAGUE: Darby v Chester
(7:30), Leicester y London Towars (7:30); Newcastle v Birmingham (7:30), Hemel and Wattord v Manchester (7:30); Thames Valley v Crystel Palace (8:0) National League, Men: First division: Mid Susser v Bebton (7:30); Nottengham v Coventiv (8:0), Oxford v Solent (8:0) Women: First division: Northampton v Sheffield (8:0); Nottingham v Birmingham (6:0); Phondida v Barting and Dagenham (6:30); Spathorne v Harlesdan (6:0) BASKETBALL

MIDLANDS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: Preliminary round: Group C: Beaston, Bromsgrove Edgleston Harborne Group D: Cannock Kidderminster, Streusbury West Bridglord (at The Glades, Kidderminster, 9 30)

Glades, Kidderminster, 9:30)
CLUB MATCHES: Basingstele v Woking, Bedford v Stevenage: Brentwood v Chelmstand Bristol v Bath Buccaneers; Cambridge Nomacts v Letchworth, Chearn v Turnbridge Welts, Exeter Homets v Torbay, Gloucester City v Whitchurch, Huddersteld v Chesterfield; Isca v Taunton Vale; Maddenhead v Sunburv Mid-Sussex v Old Midwhitgithars; Newbury v Indian Gym, Northampton Solms v Oxford Hawles; Old Southendian v Epsom; Old Whitgithams v Tulse Hill; Robinsons v Westbury, Stames v Brackreit; Warnington v Oxfort; Wednesbury v Burton, West Gloucestershire v Weston-super-March GIOLCOSTATSTRE V Weston super-Mare.

WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Become v
Bury St Edmunds: Cheam v Horsham.
Colwyn Bay v Winnington Park Eastcole v
Mardenhead; Enfield v Hayes, Epsorn v
Poly, Leves v Crowborbugh, Harborno v
Dudley, Harleston v Copdock: Lan and
Lan v St Fegans; Portahead/Pirebrands v
Bath; Tun Wolle v East Grinstead:
Tharrock v Havering; Watham Forest v
Crostyc: Wirnbledon v Wolking; Wycombe
Rye v Wolkingham; Yate v Weston.

Kick-oti 2.30 unless stated Plikington Cup Beth v London Irlah (3 0)

Coventry v Kendal (3.0) Gioucester v Laeds (3.0) Harlsquins v Chattenham (3.0) 

Exeter v Havant (3 0)
Hamogate v Fylde (2 15)
London Welst v Have (2 15)
Lydney v Rednuth v (3 0)
Whartedate v Liverpool St Helens (2 15) Fourth division north

Birmingham/Solitudi v Sandal ... Manchester v Aspatna Stoke-on-Trent v Sheffield .... Fourth division south Portra avalant super-Mare
Charton Park v Askeans
High Wycombe v North Watsham (2 15)
Mel Potice v Henlay
Newbury v Tabard
Plymouth v Camberley

Pymouth v Camberley

RFU INTERMEDIATE CUP: Frith round:
North: Belgrave v Wolverhampton:
Broadstreet v Luctonians. Doncaster v
Darington Mousten Park: Huddersfield v
Selly Oak; Lincoln v Whitchurch, Market
Bosworth v West Park Brantinpoe; Sedgley
Park v Middlesbrough, Whrat v Northurn
South: Cambridge v Coney Hil, Cincientord
v South Motion; Colchester v Orderd,
Guidford and Godalming v Marson; Oid
verulaman v Mastenhead Thenet Wandeers v St Ives (2:0), Warlingham v Sudbury
Woodbord v Torquey Africas:

SELL I BURGE CUB: Fifth march! London

RFU JUNIOR CUP: Fifth round: London and South East: Deal Wanderers v Folkestone: Enhald Ignahams v Ctd Abbotstonems; Hadleigh v Midland Bank; Harperden v Feltschoer, Old Patichians v Tonoridge Midlands: Berningham City Officals v Alcester, Hope Valley v Loughborough Students: Market Rasen and Louth v Northampton Casuols. North: Ellingham v Seghit; Creve and Narthwich v Wellesey; Redditch v Huddersteld YMCA Soushport v York Ri South and South West: Chapping Sodbury v Topsham, Milton Keynes v Parinswick; Tadley v Winscombe; Wells v Westbury on Severn Swalec Cup

Abercam v Ystradgynlais . ....... Abercan v Tsaughters

Riackwood v Havaun

Newcastle Emlyn v Resolven
Rhynney v Ammantord (2.0)

LWC v Abertillery

Whitiand v Builth Wells Welsh National Lingue First division Caerphilly v Nawport
Cardiff v Swansea
Ebbw Vale v Dunvant
Laneli v Bodgend
Pontypndd v Neath
Treorchy v Newbridge 

Tennerds Premiership

Third division Stewart's Mel FP v Musselburgh (2.0) . Fourth division Corstophine v Hilhead/Jordanhii (20) Grangemouth v Gordonians (20) Langholm v Haddington (20) Insurance Corporation Langua

Second division

Second division
Cloritari v Highlield
Dolphin v Deny
Greyetones v DLSP
Malone v Wanderers
Monistown v Sundary's Well
NIFC v UCC
Skernies v Bedtive Rangers Winnington Park v Walsali (2 15) .....

Kick-off 2 0 unless stated Silk Cut Challenge Cup

First mund
Askam v Thatio Heath
Barrow Island v Waterhead
Beverlay v Embassy
Blacktrook v Kels
Dewsbury Moor v Upton and Fickley
Dudley Hill v Park Amaleurs (2 30)
East Leeds v Kingston Comm
Eastmoor v Worth Village
Egremont v Folly Lans
Featherstone Amaleur v West Bowling
Hemel Hempstaad v Leeds Univ (2.30)
Heworth v Students R L O B (2 30)
Hull Dockers v Bisons
Leoth East v Keenley AD Leigh East v Keighley Alb ...... Leigh Miners v Farnworth .......... Lock Lane v Stanningley ........... Maylieid v Eccles .... Mittord v Norfand .... Ovenden v Hensingham Redivir v Landon Coloniais West Hull v East Hull ... Wigan St Judes v Wigan Rose Br Wigan St Patricks v Halton SC (2.30)

Woolston v Gateshead (2:30)... York Acom v Fryston EQUESTRIANISM: Olympia Champ-ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Basing-stoke v Bracknell (6:30), Manchester v Ayr (6:40), Notingham v Sheffield (7:0), LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division: Boardman and Eccles v Cheadle, Heaton Mersey v Old Wacomans, Slockport v Moorthorpe Timperley v Cheadle Hulme; Hulmerans v Mellor

POOL: Mosconi Cup. Europe v America nine-ball challenge (at Dagenham) SWIMMING: ASA national winter championship (at Sheffield).

#### THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

**ARSENAL** 

Can Stuart Pearce inspire Forest to rise above themselves, against an Arsenal team with no Tony Adams in defence or Patrick Vieira in midfield? Both are bound to be missed, but Martin Keown is fit again to replace Adams. Dennis Bergkamp returns to lend flair to the attack and lan Wright, strangely subdued against Derby. will surely be sharper after a fortnight's rest. This is one game that Arsenal badly need to win to maintain an increasingly valid challenge for the championship. BG

DERBY COUNTY

Derby would have beaten Everton with half-decent finishing on Monday night. There is no question yet of Jim Smith

splitting the partnership of Ward and Sturridge up front, but they will face pressure if Marino Ramberg, Sweden's young player of the year, decides to accept the offer of a two-month loan spell at the Baseball Ground. He recently broke into his full national squad, but will spend the next fortnight on trial with Internazionale before giving Smith a yes or no.

**ASTON VILLA** 

Cyber freaks of a claret-and-blue hue can now purchase the perfect Christmas stocking fillwith the launch of the "ultimate CD ROM" interactive guide to Villa. It features, apparently, a unique view of the club, its glorious past, player profiles, a bulletin board and a "virtual" Villa section - all for £27.99. For those more in touch with the real world, and needing a fix of the pre-Yuletide hard stuff, Wimbledon should provide it as the visitors to Villa Park tomorrow

EVERTON

John Scales's decision to join Tottenham after apparently agreeing terms at Elland Road left Leeds frothing; but Everton have not yet forgotten that Nigel Martyn did much the same when he went to Leeds in the summer. "I got the impression that he wanted to join us, but then the agent said "We've got to go see Leeds before you sign." Cliff Finch, an Everton director, said yesterday, "and that was the last we saw of him." Everton will hope they do not see much of him in a starring role today. PB BLACKBURN ROVERS

The cancellation of Middlesbrough's visit this afternoon enabled Tony Parkes to put off the decision to bring back Tim

Flowers until Boxing Day; the move, though, is likely to confirm Shay Given's decision not to sign a new contract. "He's still having talks with the chairman, but he hasn't signed yet." Parkes said. "He wants first-team football, and he is going to be a top-line 'keeper. I think he'll see out his contract until the summer, then probably go." Sunderland lead the queue.

LEEDS UNITED

Lucas Radebe is an unlikely popular hero, but the South African has emerged as one of the key players in George Graham's revamped line-up in his role as a man-marker. "He's been outstanding in that role." Graham said yesterday. "Look at the people he's marked — Zola, Le Tissier, Sheringham and McManaman, all international class." Radebe's next assignment may be Nick Barmby. Leeds may be able to be more positive soon, with Yeboah close to a comeback. PB

HOW THEY STAND

diff

DWLWW LWWWD.

DDLDIL WWWW WDWDD

DWLDW

DULUE DOMOL LILLI DULUE

Cheisea are without Frank Lebocul and Dennis Wise, who are suspended, and Gianluca Vialli, who is injured, for the vist of their London rivals, Brushed aside at Leeds and Sunderland, they seem to perform only at home; but at least they now have Eddie Newton back in midfield while Ruud Gullit, if he again decides to play unfront; could threaten a West Ham defence whose parts are greater than the whole. Cheisea, though, badly need Di Matteo to recover his form BG

LEICESTER CITY

defender, could make his first starting appearance for 13 months as Martin O'Neill is forced to reshuffle his defence for the visit of Coventry this afternoon. He can expect a rousing reception at Filbert Street after a miserable year. Kaamark damaged knee ligaments in his second game for the club, after a £840,000 move from Gothenburg. against Bolton last November. Injuries to Spencer Prior and Steve Walsh have opened the way for his return RK

Pontus Kaamark, the Sweden

COVENTRY CITY

Spirits are high at Highfield Road, after the midweek defeat of Newcastle United, but the biggest banana skin of them all, Woking, still lurks around the corner.
Remember Sutton United? Coventry greeted the FA Cup third-round draw with about as much relish as a condemned man eating his last meal. "Oh god!" Liam Daish, the City defender, yelped. His subsequent description of Clive Walker, the Woking striker, as a "poor man's Peter Beardsley", should inspire the Surrey side. RK

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool may have decided not to defend Neil Ruddock against the FA charge of bringing the game into disrepute, after his newspaper article attacking Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, but that tack of support has not chastened the burly central defender. He took over as master of Christmas ceremonies at the Liverpool Christmas lunch at the training ground yesterday, leaving the journalists to stand out in the cold watching the jollities, the turkey and mince pies, inside.

MANCHESTER UNITED

Last year, a poor December did not prevent Manchester United from winning the double. This year, Alex Ferguson knows that his team cannot afford to slip up over the holiday period. "We cannot afford to give away points over Christmas this year," Ferguson said. "With our other commitments, we don't want to be playing catch-up in the Premiership over the second half of the season. We must not allow too big a gap to open up between ourselves and the teams above us." wsPB



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

against each other, and the latter will be

mindful that Pleat's men have already won at Newcastle and Liverpool. When Wednes-

day do well, the unsung Mark Pembridge often performs wonders in midfield, while

Peter Atherton can prove a most attentive man-marker. That said, Des Walker's

handling of Teddy Sheringham promises to

SUNDERLAND

film star, but, today, at Manchester United,

his mind should be fully occupied by keeping Eric Cantona, another cult hero, at bay. The French pair were once team-mates

at Nimes, and Perez said: "It will be great to see Eric again." He will need to be at his

very best because Sunderland have not triumphed at Old Trafford for 29 years not since the year Perez was born.

Wearside women have voted

Lionel Perez Sunderland's

est player. The goalkeeper ap-

parently fancies a career as a

be the duel of the match.

Wednesday's trip to Tottenham

pits two of the league's more

thoughtful tacticians, David

Pleat and Gerry Francis,

With 19 professionals either injured or victims of a flu-type virus, today's game at Black-

3 Wimbledon

6 Tottenham ...

4 Sunderland

18 Middlesbrough

18 Southempton

WEST HAM UNITED

one can doubt his honesty - or his courage. It was revealed yesterday that Dowie had

tried to play on and atone for his error on a

broken right leg. He will be out for up to 12 weeks, but will be at Stamford Bridge today

on crutches. "It was a bit foolish to try to

stay on," he said, "but I will live with the

mistake for years. There are no excuses. I said I'm sorry - that's all you can do." KP

Jain Dowle has long been the

butt of terrace humour, and his own goal against Stockport

County will not help, but no

Blackbum "

burn was postponed yesterday lunchtime. The illness strikes at the end of a year in which Middlesbrough have won just five Premiership fixtures and during a run where they have gone 12 league games without victory. Meanwhile Bryan Rob-son, the manager, has Vladimir Kinder, from Slovakia, on trial along with Fabinho (cousin of the wayward Emerson), who may be retained as a reserve.

MIDDLESBROUGH

MEWCASTLE UNITED

Newcastle seem determined to rub shoulders with Europe's best. They could do with winning some silverware, though, and the home engagement against Liver-pool on Monday is undoubtedly one of the pivotal fixtures. Disgusted by their defeat at Coventry this week, Kevin Keegan sat sulking on his own in the team bus. Two men central to the outcome are Alan Shearer and Neil Ruddock, his likely Liverpool marker, one of whose children has the Newcastle No 9 as godfather. LT

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Pigs were reported flying over the City Ground yesterday when Irving Korn, the chair-man, told journalists assembled for the unveiling of Stuart Pearce as carefaker-manager that the club was not, after all, in crisis. Just paper talk, he explained. Forest set a record this week after a sixteenth successive Premiership game without a win, sit bottom of the table, and are unable to move in the transfer market until the takeover is complete. It is time Korn realised the gravity of matters. RH

SOUTHAMPTON

So farewell then, Aly Dia, whose "recommendation" to Southampton by "George Weah" proved bogus. Transferlisted Neil Maddison has a new lease of life and captained the side on Wednesday for the first time in his ten years at The Dell. Graeme Souness is happy to have versatile performers available, especially as a carti-lage operation forces Dodd to miss the holiday programme. Monkou replaces the suspended van Gobbel and Neilson could return, but not Le Tissier NS

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Nice to see you, to see you, nice ... devotees of White Hart Lane are likely to get their first view of new boys John Scales and Steffen Iversen this afternoon, when Sheffield Wednesday come a-visiting. Scales survived a hostile reception at Leeds United last Saturday, and a 90-minute runout for the reserves against Bristol Rovers in midweek, while Iversen has safely negotiated two away matches. "I am fairly happy so far," Iversen said. "Once I get to know

everyone, it will be better."

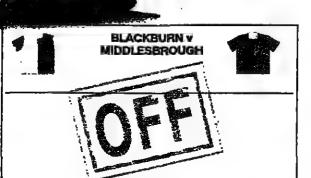
WIMBLEDON Sam Hammam took the play-

ers out last Monday for a seasonal celebration. "We've had a nice hard week to get it out of us." Robbie Earle, the midfielder, said after training. "It's competitive, but the boys enjoy it, and most stay on and do a bit extra. It's the sign of a happy club." A long,

unbeaten, injury-free run helps, of course, and can overcome blips such as the fine of a week's wages imposed on Vinnie Jones by his colleagues for injudicious remarks made to a newspaper last weekend NS

Reporter Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Louise Yaylor, Nick Szczapanik, Kelth Pike, David Maddock, Statistics: Julian Desborough





MANCHESTER UNITED v SUNDERLAND

TICKETS; Sold out 10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, --, 3-0, --, --, --, --, --,

HOW THEY LINE UP MANCHESTER UNITED (from): Schmeichel, G Neville, May, Palister, Irvin, Johnsen, Buit, Scholes, Cantona, Solskjær, Giggs, Beckham, P Neville, McClair, Poborsky, van der Gouw.

SUNDERLAND (from): Perez, Half, Kubicki, Melville, Ord, Kelty, Balf, Bracewell, Rae, Gray, Russell, Agnew, Slewart, Aiston, Bridges, Preace.

LEADING SCORERS

13: lan Wright (Arsenal) 10: Alan Shearer (Newcastle), Robbie Fowler (Liverpool) 9: Fabrizio Ravenelli (Middlesbrough) 8: Matthew Le Tissier (Southampton), Dwight Yorke (Aston Vilks), Efan Ekoku (Wimbledon), Gianluça Vialli (Chelsea) 7: Les Ferdinand (Newca

CHAMPIONSHIP BETTING

6-4: Liverpool, 11-4: Arsenal, 7-2: Manchester United, 9-2: Newces 16-1: Aston Villa, 26-1: Winshledon, 25-1: Bretion, 33-1: Chebes, 125-1: Tottenham Hotspur. Odds supplied by Ladbrokes

The official Internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-cerling.com/

\_\_ .. .—--- - .



الأناكي والمحروب والمحارب والمراكب

CHELSEA V **WEST HAM** TICKETS: Sold out



10-YEAR RECORD; 1-0, 1-1, --, --, 2-1, --, 2-0, 1-2, 1-2

HOW THEY LINE UP CHELSEA (from): Grodas, Hitchcock, Colgan, Petrescu, Phelan, Johnson, Sinclair, Clarke, Myers, Burley, Minto, Newton, Duberry, Di Maîteo, Zola, Nicholls, Gullit, Hughes

WEST HAM (from): Mildosko, Breaker, Dicks, Williamson, Potts, Bishop, Rieper, Raduciou, Rowland, Brown, Moncur, Dumitresco, Bowen, Hughes, Lampard, Billic, Porfino Mautone, Sealey, Omonimyni, Hodges

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v 🔒 🖼 ARSENAL TICKETS: Septo medication

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 0-1, 1-4, 1-2, 0-2, 3-2, 0-1, --, 2-2, 0-1 HOW THEY LINE UP

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from) Crossley, Lyttle, Pearce, Cooper, Warner, Phillips, Haarland, Woan, Allen, Saunders, Howe,

ARSENAL (probable) Lukic, McGowan, Keown, Linighan, Bould, Winterburn, Garde, Merson, Platt, Bergkamp, Wright, Subs. Hartson, Shaw, Morrow, Parlour, Bartram.

TOMORROW

ASTON VILLA V WIMBLEDON TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, --, 0-1, 0-3, 1-2, 2-1, 1-0, 0-1, 7-1, 2-0

HOW THEY LINE UP ASTON VILLA (from): Bosnich, Cakes, Nelson, Wright, Scimeca, Staunton, Ehiogu, Townsend, Draper, Taylor, Yorke, Milosevic, Joachim, Johnson, Tiler, Handrie, Farrelly.

WIMBLEDON (from): Sullivan, Cunningham, Blackwell, Perry, Kimble, Ardley, Earle, Jones, Fear, Holdsworth, Leonhardsen,



EVERTON W LEEDS

TICKETS: Seets musicible 10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, --, 23, 1-1, 2-0, 1-1, 3-0, 2-0

HOW THEY LINE UP EVERTON (from): Southell, Barrett, Hanchcliffe, Watson, Unsworth, Kanchelskis, Speed, Grant, Parkinson, Ferguson, Brench, Stuart, Short, Barmby, Hottiger, Genard, Rideout.

LEEDS (from): Martyn, Kelly, Palmer, Beesley, Radebe, Halle, Sharpe, Wallace, Ford, Bowyer, Rush, Deane, Yeboah, Wetheralf, Harte, Kewell, Jackson, Couzens, Beeney



10-YEAR RECORD: -; 1-2, 0-0, 2-1, 0-1, --, --, --, --, --

HOW THEY LINE UP SOUTHAMPTON (from): Beasant, Dryden, Lundekvern, Maddison, Berkowic, Magilton, Oakley, Stater, Ostenstad, Watson, Potter, Monkou, Benall, Hughes, Neilson.

DERBY COUNTY (from). Hoult, Rowelt, McGrath, Stirriac, Laursen, Flynn, Asanovic, D Powell, C Powell, Ward, Sturridge, Deilly, Gebbiadini, Willems, Taylor, Carsley, Yates, Carbon.

ROPIDAY **NEWCASTLE v** 



LIVERPOOL TICKETS: Bold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-2, 1-4, 2-2, --, --, --, 3-0, 1-1, 2-1 HOW THEY LINE UP

NEWCASTLE (from): Smicek, Watson, Peacock, Albert, Elliott, Cillespie, Lee, Beardsley, Ginola, Shearer, Ferdinand.

LIVERPOOL (from): James, Whight, Matteo, Ruddock, Babb, McAteer, Thomas, Barnes, Bjornebye, McManamen, Collymore, Fowler, Berger.

الرواية المراجع المراجع



LEICESTER V COVENTRY

TICKETS: Sold out 10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, --, --, --, --, --, --, 2-2, --

HOW THEY LINE UP LEICESTER (from): Keller, Grayson, Watts, Prior, Keamerk, Marshall, Izzet, Lennon, Parker, Claridge, Taylor, Heskey, Campbell, Wilson, Poole, Lawrence, Lewis.

COVENTRY (from): Ogrizovic, Tetler, Daish, Outolin, Shaw, Williams, Richardson, McAllister, Salako, Whelan, Huckerby, Jess, Borrows, Boland, Genaux, Filen.

0 > TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR Y SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1, 2-0, 0-0, 3-0, --, 0-2, 0-2, 1-3, 3-1, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (trom): Walker, Carr, Campbell, Fox. Caldanwood, Wilson, Howells, Nielsen, Dozzell, Sinton, Sheringham, Iversen, Scales, Allen, Nethercott, Rosenthal,

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): Pressman, Noten, Nicol, Atherton, Welker, Stelenovic, Pembridge, Whitingham, Hyde, Carbone, Booth, Hirst, Blinker, Clarke, Oakes, Trustfull, Humphreys, Donaldson, Linighan.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

10.40pm BBC 1 Metch of the Day (highlights)

11.00cm Sky Spects Gods on Sunday

4pm My Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday Aston Villa v Wimbledon (Rvs)

Som Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday night footbell Newcastle V Liverpool (live)



meh in doc Donement.

> with the same -1 -1  $\mathcal{S}^{(n)} \mapsto \mathcal{S}^{(n)} = \mathcal{S$ to the property

The Contract of the Contract o

1,112,24 1,110,414

to Sugar

150 PM

ार्थकात् हैं। संस्थानसम्बद्ध

 $\sim -5 M_{\odot}^2 e^{-3}$ 

1.50



Shilton, the Peter Pan of football, plays his thousandth league match tomorrow. "In that critical second in the striker's mind, he looks as unpassable as King Kong."

## Goalkeeping legend in a league of his own MOST LEAGUE APPEARANCES

he queues for the signature of Peter Leslie Shilton were longer than for Santa's grotto, which says some thing for the enduring attraction of England's oldest active professional footballer, as well as the proper priorities of Christmas shoppers at the Lakeside centre in Essex. After all, it is not every day that the dash from Marks & Spencer to Pizza Hut is blocked by a footballing legend: 1.000 league games, come Leyton. Orient's home match against Brighton tomorrow afternoon, 47

on deal

d popular

r davances

or line profit

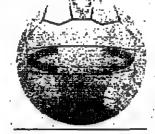
one caution

years, 125 England cape.

About 100 strong for the whole hour, the line shuffled slowly towards the familiar, dark figure hunched over a desk piled high with postcards. Shilton took trouble over each request, engaged in endless small talk and conducted himself with the professionalism that has marked his playing career. His hands are surprisingly delicate and undamaged, considering the sort of punishment a litary of great strikers have given them over the past 30 years, but the pen still seemed as small as a pin in his fist.

"David Seaman? You should have seen this bloke," a father have a look-in if Shilts had been in his prime." Shilton looked on benignly, considering the compliment, then turned a weary eye to the next in line, a West Ham United PETER SHILTON

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL



By Andrew Longmore

fan, who remembered Shilton from his Leicester City days and had been cursing him ever since. Briefly, they swapped memories.

Who was that bloke ... dark-haired, stocky, striker who used to play for you way back? Shilton asked. They settled on Brian Dear. "I remember a game we had in my early days. West Ham hardly got a the end he nicked one past me, went in off the post." After all these years, it still hurts. "Any goal that gets past me, for club or country, I treat as a personal disaster," he confided once. There have been fewer than most, on the field at least. Satisfied, the signed photograph in hand, the West Ham man

retreats, wishing Shilton luck for tomorrow. "He's done us a few times, he has," he said, turning back for a final look. "Remember that cup game against Stoke when he saved that penalty from Hurst? No idea to this day how he did that." He shook his head in the manner of so many thwarted strikers down the years. "One of the greats, you know." Who was the photo for? "Me son, he's 32." He was two when Shilton made his first Football League appearance, against Everton, at the age of 16. Leicester won 3-0.

In the background, Barry Hearn, who has lured Shilton from West Ham's reserves and back into first, team football with Orient, looks on like a doting grandfather. His hair has not weathered as well, as Shilton's. "He's only a year younger than me and his stretching routine makes me feel tired," he said. "I swapped Les Sealey for him three weeks ago, the best piece of business I've done in years. He made six world-class saves against is we don't have to worry about our end any more. We just have to score in theirs."

Brian Clough said much the same when Nottingham Forest SHILTON'S RECORD

LEICESTER CITY STOKE CITY NOTTINGHAM FOREST SOUTHAMPTON DERBY COUNTY PLYMOUTH ARGYLE **BOLTON WANDERERS** LEYTON ORIENT

Born: Leicester, Sept 18, 1949. Height: 6ft, Weight: 14st 2lb. Club debut: May 4, 1966 (Leicester City v Everton): England debut: Nov 25, 1971 (v East Germany). England record: 125 apps (a record). potbeli League XI: 4 apps.

SHILTON'S LANDMARKS

Nov 1974: Transferred to Stoke world record fee of 325,000.

won the championship, straight up from the second division, in 1978 and Shilton kept 25 clean sheets. "He cost me £270,000 and he was worth every penny," Clough wrote in his autobiography. "A good goalkeeper can save you 18 points a eason and he was a class act."

These days, you start negotiating "The bigger the better," seems to be the motto. Shilton lacked height. but not width. In that critical split second in the striker's mind, he looked as unpassable as King

PFA FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR: 1979. MBE: appointed 1986. OBE: appointed 1990. Kong. Peter Withe, the centre

forward in the championship sides

of both Forest and Aston Villa, had

a better record than most against

(Leicester City)

his old team-mate. "He always had a thing about being bigger than he is." he said. "At the top of his game, he gave the impression he was oft Zin or 6ft 3in, his boots. He was just so agile and

he worked so hard.

"At Forest, he used to pull off save after save, and we would be thinking: 'Flipping 'eck, he's turning cartwheels for us, we'd better do something here.' When you have a keeper like that behind you, it gives everyone a boost, and it didn't half sicken off the strikers in the

Pater Shilton

Terry Paine

. Alan Oakes

John Trollage

Roy Sproson

SHILTON'S HONOURS

EUROPEAN CUP: 1979 and 1980 (Nottingham Forest).

758: Billy Bonds

LEAGUE CUP: Winner (1978, Nottingham Forest). Finalist (1980, Nottingham Forest). SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP: 1971

CHAMPIONSHIP: 1978 (Nottingham Forest).

FA CUP: Finalist (1969, Leicester City).

758: Ray Clemence

Jimmy Dickinsor

777:

764:

762:

Robbie James

Tommy Hutchinson

other team." Without Ray Clemence and the dithering of successive England managers, Shilton might have won refused to believe that anyone was better than him when he was briefly the England goalkeeping coach under Graham Taylor.

Shilton had many character

failings. The list of his off-field misdemeanours is as long as his collection of clubs — Orient is his eleventh — and almost as varied. But self-belief travelled with him every step of the way. He still harbours a quaint dream that he might play in the Premiership again. Probably not with Leyton Orient.

What was so strange about Shilton was that his extraordinary sense of discipline dissolved the moment he crossed the white line back to reality. He was as profligate off the field as he was miserly on it. He won his battle with alcohol, but his domestic life kept the tabloids in headlines and he is still laden with debt. A chat with the great man this week cost about 25p a league game.

Back at the Lakeside, a pale young man with a bad cough stands in the miniature goal, fielding shots from passing children. Luke Weaver, Orient's reserve goalkeeper, 17, has had his immediate ambitions blocked by the arrival of the newcomer, but every Monday and Thursday he trains and listens and watches, aware that this is a priceless investment in his Watford with Peter Bonetti. but this is better," he said. "He still works hard and his reflexes are still sharp. Not a bad guy to be dropped for.

## Middlesbrough in dock Repentant Weah says moment of over postponement

By PETER BALL

THESE are bad days for Middlesbrough. As if errant Brazilians and a leaky defence did not offer problems enough, injuries and a viral epidemic yesterday persuaded them to postpone this afternoon's away game against Blackburn Rovers, and they the urges rebit will face an FA Premier League disciplinary hearing

in the new year.

Mike Lee, the FA Premier League spokesman, said in a statement: "The FA Premier League had no discretion to approve such a postponement, and the rules clearly state that a club is obliged to fulfil its fixture obligations." Understandably, Blackburn reacted angrily to Middlesbrough's

This is a big decision now for the Premier League," Tom Finn, the Blackburn secretary, said yesterday. "I can understand that smaller clubs sometimes can't field a team, but in these days of £20 million turnovers, and multimillion pound teams, you should have squads to cope with such eventualities. It is a huge issue of the Premiership's cre-

Middlesbrough have 17 players fit, although three are goalkeepers and five are young players not yet in the present predicament, without first team squad. In their games, they clearly felt that that is not enough.

"We could not have done ourselves justice," Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said yesterday. "I would have had to include six debutants, and that would not have been fair to anyone. Not one of those players are over 20 years

Middlesbrough's reluctance to play in those circumstances. with Juninho, Pearson, Vickers, Fleming, Stamp and Moore among the injured, Beck and Whyte among the flu sufferers, can be understood, but it is hard to avoid the feeling that that is the luck of the draw. "It would be unfair to the playing public to go ahead," Robson claimed; but the Blackburn public, the majority of the expected crowd,

might not agree. Certainly, with Middles-brough on a bad run, and Blackburn improving, the home club officials were eager for the game to be played. We've got a huge game on Boxing Day against New-castle," Finn said, "and nowthis puts even extra pressure on that one, because we could be in the bottom three through no fault of our own."

Blackburn's unhappiness was not helped by not learning of the postponement officially from the Premier League of fice until after the supporters had heard on the lunchtime

With no provision for the League to grant a postpone-ment, Middlesbrough have been charged with a breach of regulations and will face a disciplinary hearing. The disciplinary panel, by contrast, has wide discretionary powers, and could do anything from finding that there were extenuating circumstances for Middlesbrough's action to fining the club, deducting points, or indeed awarding the match to Blackburn. "If the



Robson: reluctant to play

Premier League starts talking about just financial penalties, I'm sorry, but that just isn't sufficient," Finn said. With Liverpool and

Newcastle United meeting at St James' Park on Monday, there is an opportunity today for Arsenal, Manchester United and Everton to make things even tighter at the top. Aston Villa and Wimbledon will meet tomorrow in the only other game between two of the leading clubs.

A visit from Arsenal is

usually the last thing that a club in turmoil wants, but Stuart Pearce may regard today being as good a time as any to face them. Injuries and suspensions mean that Arsenal will be without Dixon and Adams from their back five and Vieira from midfield. Bergkamp and Keown return, and Remi Garde, Arsène Wenger's other French signing, stands by to make his

debut in Vieira's place. Manchester United face Sunderland at Old Trafford, knowing that their Premiership credentials are on the line, with Alex Ferguson warning that they cannot afford to slip any further behind. At full strength they are probably the strongest team in the league, but the injuries to Keane and Cole have left them looking less than totally

convincing. Keane, however, has begun jogging and is expected to make his comeback on New Year's Day and Cole will play in a rearranged reserve match on Monday. They cannot return too quickly for United.

West Ham United go to Chelsea without their striker, Iain Dowie, whose unhappy week was complete yesterday when it was confirmed that he had broken an ankle in the Coca-Cola Cup tie at Stockport on Wednesday as well as scoring an own goal. West Ham have taken Mike Newell, the Birmingham City for-

# madness will never be repeated

eorge Weah, is unar-guably a model of his time. He is already the 1996 world, European and African footballer of the year. He has since crafted perhaps the finest goal in the history of the game, running from his own penalty box through seven gentlemen of Verona to finish with incomparable athleticism, breathtaking composure. And, when the new year polls are counted, either he, Alan Shearer, or Ronaldo, the astonishing young Brazilian of Barcelona, will be next year's world No I.

Imagine, then, George Weah writing the most humbling of letters to Fifa, the world governing body of his

"I am writing to you to apologise for the unfortunate situation that occurred in Porto," he began his letter two days ago to Sepp Blatter, the Fifa general secretary. "Please extend my deepest regrets to Fifa and the entire football body for the situation. epecially since you chose to give me the Fair Play Award

for 1996.

"You have given me the greatest honour and because of a moment of craziness through provocation. I have caused you embarrassment. I have always viewed football as a sport for unification for now and for tomorrow unification in the sense of bringing people together and that concept will always remain in my head through-

out my career and after." It was because of the way in which Weah used his head lost it, in fact - that he was having now to craft such an apology. On November 20 Weah broke the nose of Jorge Costa, the Porto defender, with a savage butt in the tunnel after a Champions' League match. AC Milan, who pay Weah's wages, audaciously tried to tell the world that nothing significant had-taken place; Weah, his wife and other witnesses maintained that the headbutt was a





Weekend View

reaction to serious foul play perpetrated against Weah by Costa in both meetings of the teams and, Weah still insists, severe racial taunting from

the Portuguese. Uefa added five more matches to Weah's one-match suspension this week. However, the governing body of European football did not take action against Costa. Rene Eberle, the disciplinary committee secretary, said that there was no proof of the

alleged racial remarks.

The decision has enraged not only Weah's family but also the minister for sport and youth in Liberia, his homeland. "I am appalled, sadMassaquoi said this week. They are punishing Weah. but what are they going to do

with Costa? Are they not going to punish him because he is a white boy?" Oh dear. The politician furthers his intervention by speculating that Uefa and Fifa have concocted the punishments so that they can avoid giving an African the prestigious award for the second year running. How one wishes that the politician, particularly one from a land which had ostracised Weah until his fame became so beneficial,

had kept quiet. In fact, almost the opposite has happened. Weah was given the award last year. when he won little of import. precisely because it was a fallow year in the sport, and a gesture towards the rising

continent of the game could

be made. Moreover, João Havelange. stubbornly proving that, at 80, he remains a law unto himself, said last week: "Fifa has selected the Liberian [Weah] for its fair-play award and will not change that decision. A gesture in reaction that was provoked cannot cancel out ien years of fair play everywhere and in every competition."

When it was suggested to Havelange that



Weah in action for AC Milan against Porto last month

#### tated, the Fifa overlord retorted: "Nonsense."

So, while there is proof that

one of the greatest players in

the game committed common

assault on an aggressive op-

gest that, if Costa were to

follow through his threat to

take Weah to court, the de-

fence would be very thin. And

the game, inevitably, would

If there was racism, it

should be condemned. Ucfa

failed appallingly to deal with

this during Euro 96, when Hristo Stoikhov, of Bulgaria,

admitted that he had used

racist remarks to taunt Mar-

cel Desailly, of France, "Ev-

eryone does it." Stoikhov said.

o sir, they do not. But it is a sad reflection on the most popular

game played on earth that men will stoop to such meth-

ods, methods of cheats and

biggots. And the response

within football has been no-

where near universal: for

example, Hussein Ali, of Ku-

wait, has been suspended for

a year and fined 5,000 Swiss

francs (£2,500) by Fifa for

verbally abusing and spitting

We have, sadly, come an

awful long way from the days

of Tom Finney and Pele -

men who would be

colourblind so far as their race

is concerned. They have re-

spect for their game, for one

another, and Finney spoke of

'ambassadors" yeslerday. So

happen again, I will make it

my special duty to teach

youngsters coming up in the football world that, even

though temptation exists at

times within the game, fight-

ing is not the solution. I will

never make you ashamed of

me again, I will always be

grateful for all you have done

He signed himself: "George

Weah, Liberia Sports

to uplift my career."

"The situation will never

does Weah in his letter:

at a referee.

By Our Sports Staff

Samaranch

plays down

Fifa threat

to withdraw

JUAN Antonio Samaranch. president of the International Olympic Committee, said yesterday that he was not worried by a threat to withdraw football from the Olympic Games. "There hasn't really been any danger that the sport could disappear from the Olym-

pics." Samaranch said. Samaranch was responding to comments by João Havelange, the president of Fifa, football's world governing body, who criticised the sport's role in the Olympics and the organisation of the

Atlanta tournament. Havelange had said that football had gained nothing financially from the Atlanta Games and could be oulled out of the Olympics if it continued to be "marginalised".

Officals in Abu Dhabi yesterday defended the quality of football on display at the Asian Cup in response to a report, being prepared for Fifa, that is critical of the standard. The early draft of the report, prepared by a leading Western coach, suggests that Asian football is not progressing and is critical of the performances of South

Korea and Japan in the cup. "We know about the report and we are expecting it soon after the end of the tourna-. ment," Jurg Nepfer, head of Fifa's technical department in Zurich, said yesterday.

The Asian Football Confedcration (AFC) has been especially upset over the criticism of South Korea and Japan, who will co-host the 2002 World Cup. "The AFC has nothing to fear where the quality of football is concerned as demonstrated by the excellent performances of Japan and Korea at the Atlantic Olympics and by Korea and Saudi Arabia at the 1994 World Cup," Peter Velappan, secretary of the AFC, said.



# SPORT

Can you help to pick the game's greatest moments?



SATURDAY DECEMBER 21 1996

Crawley forms strong alliance with vice-captain to force Zimbabwe onto defensive

# Hussain puts England in driving seat

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

BULAWAYO (third day of five): England, with six first-70 runs behind Zimbabwe

THERE is sometimes a fine line between success and fail-ure and Nasser Hussain tiptoed along it precariously on the third day of the first Test at

Queens Club here yesterday.

The England vice-captain turned the first ball he faced, from Paul Strang, down off his hip and saw it slip through the fingers of Stuart Carlisle crouched three feet away at short leg. Had the catch stuck, England would have been 92 for three in reply to Zimbabwe's 376. They would have been on the run, Instead Hussain stayed — and stayed and stayed. For the next five hours he battled away, withstanding the loss of two partners in disheartening fashion to claw England back into the match. At the start of play. bookmakers had judged them to be 20-1 outsiders, yet at stumps yesterday they were in a position from which they may well yet, sometime tomorrow, force a win.

Shortly before the close Hussain reached a richly de-served century and will resume this morning with England on 306 for four, his own innings worth 101 and his partnership with John Crawley worth 126, Crawley having played beautifully for three hours for his 51. With the pitch turning, England need to bat well today to build a substantial lead and give themselves a realistic chance of beating opponents whose temperaments they have rea-son to believe are suspect under pressure.

The most encouraging aspect of the batting of Hussain and Crawley, neither of whom

was in the England side when it last played a Test overseas, was their willingness to graft in unfavourable conditions, knowing also that after them there is little batting to come. With the pitch having less life in it than expected, the ball did not come on to the bat and, with the fields spread, there was no option but to chisel out

As expected, the main threat to England's well-being came from Strang; the promising Zimbabwe leg spin bowler, who was never treated with anything less than respect. He took two of the three wickets to fall yesterday as England advanced their score to 238 and caused Hussain, who admitted to not being able to read Strang every time, to twice more tiptoe along the thin line

before a third century in six

Tests was his. Twice after reaching his half-century Hussain narrow-ly escaped. The first time he swept within inches of Houghton, who spent some of the day off the field with back trouble, and the second time spooned an attempted pull over the head of Whittall, who might have moved more quickly at mid-on.

Crawley, on the other hand. appeared to pick Strang every time, confirming his reputation as the best player of leg spin in the England side alongside Atherton. He has given the impression on this tour that he is on the brink of transforming himself from a batsman of promise into one of real stature.

The only other bowler seriously troubling England was

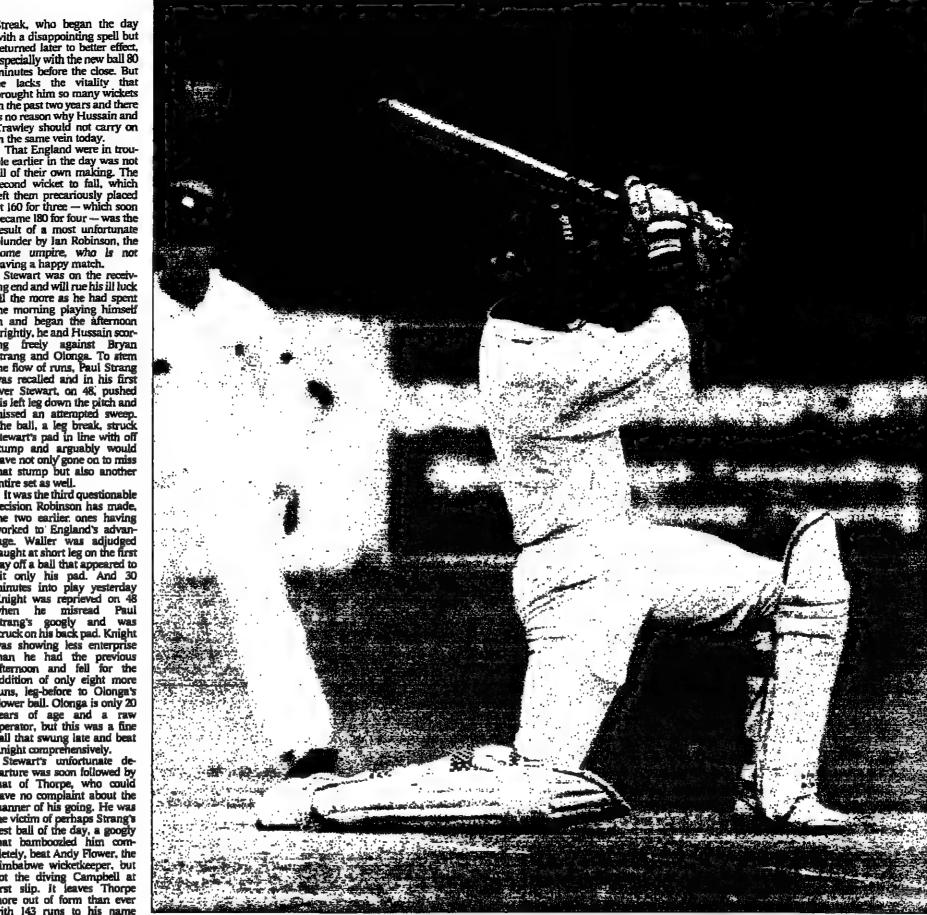
Streak, who began the day with a disappointing spell but returned later to better effect, especially with the new ball 80 minutes before the close. But he lacks the vitality that brought him so many wickets in the past two years and there is no reason why Hussain and Crawley should not carry on

in the same vein today. That England were in trouble earlier in the day was not all of their own making. The second wicket to fall, which left them precariously placed at 160 for three - which soon became 180 for four - was the result of a most unfortunate blunder by Ian Robinson, the home umpire, who is not having a happy match.

ing end and will rue his ill luck all the more as he had spent the morning playing himself in and began the afternoon brightly, he and Hussain scoring freely against Bryan Strang and Olonga. To stem the flow of runs, Paul Strang was recalled and in his first over Stewart, on 48, pushed his left leg down the pitch and missed an attempted sweep. The ball, a leg break, struck Stewart's pad in line with off stump and arguably would have not only gone on to miss that stump but also another entire set as well.

decision Robinson has made, the two earlier ones having worked to England's advantage. Waller was adjudged caught at short leg on the first day off a ball that appeared to hit only his pad. And 30 minutes into play yesterday Knight was reprieved on 48 when he misread Paul Strang's googly and was struck on his back pad. Knight was showing less enterprise than he had the previous afternoon and fell for the addition of only eight more runs, leg-before to Olonga's slower ball. Olonga is only 20 vears of age and a raw operator, but this was a fine ball that swung late and beat

Knight comprehensively. Stewart's unfortunate parture was soon followed by that of Thorpe, who could have no complaint about the manner of his going. He was the victim of perhaps Strang's best ball of the day, a googly that bamboozled him completely, beat Andy Flower, the Zimbabwe wicketkeeper, but not the diving Campbell at first slip. It leaves Thorpe more out of form than ever with 143 runs to his name



Hussain plays powerfully through the covers during his century for England at Queens Club yesterday. Photograph: Stn Forster/Allsport

#### **BULAWAYO SCOREBOARD**

ENGLAND First Innings

- N V Knight ibw b Olonga ..... (104mm, 79 balls, 9 fours) \*M A Atherton low b P A Strang (57min, 43 balls, 2 lours) +A J Stewart Bw b P A Strang (149min, 123 balls, 8 fours)
- G P Thorpe c Campbell b P A Strang (28mm, 23 balls, 3 lours)
- Extress (b 4, lb 2, w 1, nb 14) . Total (4 wkts, 108 overs, 419min) 306 P.D.B.Croft, D.Gough, A.D.Mulially, C.E. W.Silverwood and P.C.R.Tufnell to bet FALL OF WICKETS 1-48 (Knight 29), 2-92 (Stewart 14), 3-160 (Hussain 24), 4-180 (Hussain 31)

7-0, 5-1-5-0); B C Strang 17-5-54-0 (h) 2; 7 fours; 5-0-21-0, 5-0-22-0, 7-5-11-0); P A Strang 37-10-83-3 (12 fours; 14-4-25-1, 20-5-48-2, 3-0-12-0); Olonga 17-1-72-1 (nb 7, w 1; 10 fours; 1-0-10-0, 6-1-22-1, 5-0-24-0, 5-0-18-0); Whittall 7-2-19-0 (4 fours; one spell); G W Flower 7-3-20-0 (2 fours; one spell)

SCORING NOTES (third day): Lunch: 128-2 (43 overs, 179min; Slewart 29, Hussein 12). Tee: 231-4 (76 overs, 29min; Husseln 81, Crawley 19) Second new beal: 251-4 (88 overs) at 3,32pm

Complet by Bill Frindall

PHOTOGRAPHS: ROSS KINNAIRO / ALLSPORT

Pearce faces the press on his first day in charge

## Pearce agrees to tackle his hardest task yet

ITY RICHARD HOBSON

from eight tour innings.

STUART PEARCE has never been one to shirk a challenge. but vesterday he took on what he acknowledges is the biggest test of his football career. when he agreed to become caretaker-manager of Nottingham Forest.

That Pearce should succeed Frank Clark is not exactly a surprise, because at the City Ground he was always seen as the heir apparent. He was recommended to the club's board of directors by Clark, just as Clark had been favoured by Brian Clough three years ago. Nobody, however, could have forseen the perilous circumstances in which Pearce, 34, would take charge.

The problems he faces are immense, with the side bottom of the FA Carling Premiership and the future ownership of the club thrown into new doubt on Thursday night when one of the two consortiums attempting to win the support of shareholders withdrew their takeover bid in the wake of Clark's resignation. Pearce, already player, cap-

tain and Professional Footbali-

ers' Association representat-

whether to stay on in a managerial role in the middle of January, and will not do so if he believes that the extra

responsibility is affecting his play. Unlike Bryan Robson, Gordon Strachan and, to a lesser extent. Ruud Gullit, he said that he is still a footballer first and manager second. Nor will he relinquish willingly his place in the England squad, even though Glenn Hoddle had to force him out of temporary retirement after the finals in the summer

Alan Hill. Clark's assistant. will undertake the paperwork and the club's business negotiations will be conducted by Irving Korn, the chairman, pending the takeover.

It is, nevertheless, a huge workload, even for a man of such unwavering commitment as Pearce, but he will attempt to tackle it head on. He commands so much authority at the City Ground that Fred Reacher, the former chairman, said at a testimonial dinner in the player's cause earlier this year that Pearce had a "job for life" at the club. "I think you will find that he

had drunk a few glasses of wine when he said that," Pearce said yesterday.

For a man often described as an inspirational leader. Pearce is not renowned for his eloquence. He is the archetypplayer's player and his public relations skills will undergo close scrutiny over the coming weeks. Yesterday,

he had secured the loan signing of Nigel Clough, from Manchester City, for a month,

"I am sure that Frank would have liked to have signed five or six players, but there is no money available so he had to work with the players he had

sweater, jeans and desert

boots, he gave a frank, down-

ahead, before revealing that

already and it is the same for

me now," Pearce said. "It

remains to be seen if these

players are good enough. I have asked them for 100 per

"They might think I am an.

easy option because I have

been one of them, but things

will have to be a bit different

now. I admit I know very little

cent effort and respec-



More animated, he conducts training with the players who must now call him "boss"

whether I will enjoy it, or be any use. But I do know that your friends become very few

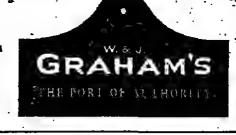
There was also a moment of vintage Pearce. Asked why Nigel Clough, back where he enjoyed the best days of his career, would not be selected for the home game against Arsenal this afternoon, he glared at his inquisitor and replied sternly: "Because I

That is the role model - the tough guy, the one-time electrician who made good whom supporters know and love. This afternoon he will sprint towards the Trent End and acknowledge the cries of "Psycho, Psycho" by letting out a manic scream of "Come on!" He will clench his fists and raise his arms, his face contorted in passion. There cannot be a greater empathy between any player and his club in English football. The odds are stacked against Pearce, but he will not fall alone

Premiership guide, page 38 Shilton's grand day, page 39 Weekend view, page 39

GRRR AHA MMM'S PORT







Wrap up in style to go to the party shopping . 3

# veekend

Champagne prize Jumbo crossword competition 4



SATURDAY DECEMBER 21 1996



# And lo, a croc appeared

ur old farmyard is an odd place in which to quibble about biblical scholarship, but here goes... Is it possible that there was a crocodile present at the birth of the

baby Jesus? Try arguing the case with a six-year-old who has slaved to make an animal costume on a promise of appearing in a perfect setting: a stable with a nativity play celebrating the manger, sheep with which to animals in the stable when abide, cattle expert at lowing.

Jesus was born. Frankly, nei
Admittedly, we had no camel to ther would I wish to break it to the child who came dressed as a goose that nativity plays are generally about oxen, asses and sheep. No room at the inn, surely, for a zoo?

Here we go again... Another Christmas, another farmyard

nativity play, more problems. Last Christmas, when the animals started to leave our ark as the floodwaters of my farming adventures began to recede, I remember thinking that it would be the farmyard nativity play that I would miss most. The idea to hold them came five years ago with the sudden realisation that we had here a bring the three Kings, but a. Suffolk Punch could do the job instead. We even had an Angel Gabriel, played by the only lad in the village who could blow a fanfare (of sorts) on a trumpet. We told him to come dressed in

white and he duly turned up in

How did all those animals get in on the nativity scene, asks Paul Heiney after his Suffolk farm was turned into a film set. No room at the inn, surely, for a zoo?

was perfect, except for the words "Nuclear Electric" emblazoned across his chest. Ah, the atom, we said, a fundamental piece of God's creation. No problem there.

Every year the weather was kind to us. Skies cleared in the late afternoon to give us a frosty twilight into which we belted out our carols, and when the girl soprano scaled the cliff face of the straw stack to sing In the Bleak Midwinter into the

dry eye in the house. But this year it was to be different. Television cameras were to be there, with piercing lights to illuminate every corner of the barn and farm buildings. And, instead of standing on a bale of straw welcoming a handful of damp neighbours, I am to appear before the entire nation on Christmas morning (ITV, 9.30am) and invite you all to

his gleaming boiler suit, which rising moon, there was not a about "one day on your dressing room they'll pin a star". It was as if the farm had been signed up by Lloyd Webber

lock, livestock and barrel. The producer, Ray Bruce, was insistent that this nativity play should not tread the wellworn path but, instead, examine the role and significance of the animals at the birth of Jesus. "Problem." I said. "Our animals have gone." We've still got the noble carthorses, but if share in the Nativity. Talk he thought I was going to have

asking Desert Orchid to play Muffin the Mule. And there are no cows left to portray the oxen, and surely even the most inventive television producer could not find a role for Alice, the Large Black pig? "Anyway," I said severely, "she's old and deaf and cranky, and the thought of disrupting her daily routine for anything as vulgar as television is out of the

question." No problem. Animals were booked. Mr White brought his cows, Cowslip and Clara, and his two donkeys, Farmer and Melba. "One donkey will do," said the producer, mindful of his budget. He did not know that these two donkeys are one

them cast as a lowly asses he of the closest-knit teams in was mistaken; it would be like showbiz and that Melba without Farmer is like Abbott without Costello. Worse. Melba would kick the place down if Farmer wasn't there to keep her company. Hence two donkeys rather than the usual one.

Then the sheep arrived. My old flock came cascading down the ramp of the trailer and into the farmyard, charging round, knocking things over like children on a return visit to their old school. Suddenly it was more Resurrection than Nativity. The old farmyard was alive again with the sounds and smells of livestock; the ghosts of Christmases past coming to haunt me. But are animals really

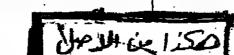
Continued on page 2

23 GARDENING 45 PROPERTY

6,7 SALES GUIDE 8,9 HOME LIFE

12 months free insurance with free 34 hour replacement on all new priones orange Orange offers this direct to all its customers. No other national mobile network does this. -- hurchisch telecom

Available from Orange on 0800 80 10 80, or from Dixons, Carphone Warehouse, The Link, Tandy, Comet, Currys, John Lewis Partnership, Peoples Phone, Granada, Norweb, Orange Shops and other leading stores nationwide.



hristmas Eve, snow falling. Daddy upstairs doing his bow tie in the full-length mirror, Mummy putting on her pearls and spraying something floral on her neck, Nanny just putting the finishing touches to Floella's hair, and little Cedric looking scrumptious in his sailor suit. The car outside is warm and soft, and waiting to take them to the Trollopes's Christmas bash.

Floella and Cedric are in the car now. Bunty is wishing the Nanny a Merry Christmas, and Daddy just has to grab the Trollopes's presents from under the tree. "Bunty, where did you put the

presents for the Trollopes?"
"What do you mean, where did I put them? I told you to buy them." End of Christmas idyll. Pestive season ruined. Can't go to the party without presents. Nothing is open except the garage, and you can't very well take them a can of four-star and six microwaveable hotdogs. There is an all-night chemist in King's Cross, but you haven't time to drive three miles for a gift-wrapped party pack of flavoured condoms. This is a job for Supershopper.

For all is by no means lost. At times of crisis your own home can be turned into an extremely pukka impromptu department store. First of all, hit the book depart-

ment. Scan the shelves for unread hardbacks of any kind, though this is a risky business because it is a trick everyone knows. A quick glance at the publication date will give this one away, unless you can pass it off as a collectable rarity. One favourite trick of mine is to

#### **SERIOUS SHOPPING**

grab an unread Jeffrey Archer (which, in most homes, will mean any Jeffrey Archer) and scrawl on the frontispiece. Merry Christmas from Jeffrey". They are unlikely to know his signature, and

will be mightily impressed. If something more extravagant is required, take an old copy of any Dickens novel, bash it around a bit and rip out the telltale page with edition dates on, and write, "Best wishes from Charlie" with a leaky pen, splodging some inkspots on it

for authenticity. Next stop, the perfumery. Your bathroom should contain quite a few unused aftershaves and perfumes from Christmases past, plus

#### PANIC GIFTS

BY GILES COREN

the odd Body Shop gift basket still in its cellophane. Failing this, don't forget that people often run out of loo roll at Christmas, and it can make a timely present.

Right, that's a couple sorted out. Now try clothes. Your best hope is seldom-worn items of cashmere or silk. Fold them in tissue paper and, as you hand them over, say: "I got this in Hong Kong". This will explain both the apparent extrava-gance, and the lack of packaging.

Another winner is jewellery. There are bound to be pairs of earrings around that are never worn because they are either unattractive or allergenic. Nobody throws jewellery boxes away, so find a nice one, and it will mask the inadequacy of the contents.

Do not forget to remove labels.

Next stop, hat shelf in coat cupboard. Here you should find

never-played board games, such as "Over the Hill — the Midlife Crisis Game." and "Lenny Henry's Stand-up Comedy Game". These are intended to make you laugh when you look at the box, but not to be played. Only acceptable if the cellophane is still intact.

Pictures: take any Victorian print from a spare bedroom. The chances are the receiver will not have seen it before and, if they have, they will not remember where, and will assume they have remembered it because it is lamous, and therefore valuable. You can wrap this in newspaper, as print shops often do.

Now hit the food hall. Larders and kitchen cupboards can be a hive of giveable goodies. But there are rules. Acceptable foods to give include pannetone, tinned cas-

soulet or confit d'oie from Fauchon, Soupe de Poisson in a jar, whole cheeses, rare mustards and small herb trees in pots. Quite unacceptable are things

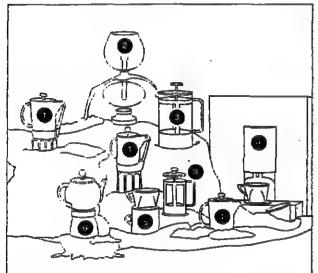
such as half-finished jars of Mrs Elswood's haimisha pickled cucumbers, pieces of cheese, tinned meat products such as Spam, pasta sauces and frozen chickens. If all else fails, remember than "retro" is "in". Old bakelite telephones, taps, door knockers, Hoovers and early plastic swing-bins can all make a wonderful gift for the stylish home. Got an old kitchen chair that doesn't go with the new look from Magnet? Well,

people always need chairs. So don't let last-minute shopping worries spoil your Christmas this year. And remember, it's the thought that counts.

# Coffee break choice

THE PREPARATION of a cup of coffee is a wonderful ritual. It begins with the bean — which roast and blend to choose and how to have it ground - and continues through to the method used for

making it: filter, plunger, or perculator. Whatever your needs or passion, here is a selection of what is on offer in the shops to help you achieve SUE PARKER that perfect coffee-shop taste.



1 Stove-top espresso coffee maker with ceramic jug, £19.50, from John Lewis Partnership (0171-629 7711 for branches). 2 Glass cona coffee maker, £65, from the Algerian Coffee Store, 52 Compton Street, London WC2 (0171-437 2480); this works by the vacuum method - light the spirit burner beneath and the bubbling hot water at the bottom swaps places with the coffee at the top. 3 Bodum Kerrya range of plunger-style coffee makers: three-cup 29.99, 12-cup £18 99, in brightly coloured plastic holders from the Bodum Shop, 24 Neal Street, London WC2 (0171-240 \$178). 4 Gaggia Automatica, £695, from the Algerian Coffee Stores (as above); the coffee is freshly ground in the machine for each cup and it has several settings for strength and the number of cups required. 5 Simple caramic onecup litter which fits on top of your mug, £7.60, from the Monmouth Cotlee Shop, 27 Monmouth Street, London WC2 (0171-836 5272). 6 La Signora polished aluminium stove-top espresso maker, from £13.95 for one-cup up to £28.50 for 12-cup, from The Home, Salts Mill, Victoria Road, Saltaire. Bredford (meil order, 01274 530770).



## 'Donkeys know Christmas is theirs'

Continued from page i necessary if the intention of a nativity play is a reconstruction of the birth of Jesus? Not if you take St Luke as your guide. His account of the birth of Jesus beginning. "And it came to pass that a decree went out...", is the script on which every nativity play is based. But St Luke mentions no animals; certainly no ox or ass; and there is no reference to sheep, only shepherds.

evertheless, everyone from Old Master in schoolchild who has tried to recreate the Nativity, whether on canvas, stained glass or cardboard, has the infant, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, ox and ass looking on. They did not get it from St Luke.

But it has come from somewhere, and has power, this image of farmyard animals at the crib. It is almost always there: from the lowing cattle in Away in a Manger to Hardy's poem about the oxen kneeling at midnight.

We pictured the meek, mild crea-

They dwelt in their strawy pen. Nor did it occur to one of us there To doubt that they were kneeling

According to producer Ray Bruce's meticulous research, the animals became more and more prominent in the story of the birth of Jesus as the centuries went by. Perhaps to St Luke and his contemporaries the presence of livestock in a stable was so commonplace that it was hardly worth recording. But writing in the 8th century, Pseudo-Matthew (in an apocryphal

version of the Gospels) said:
"And on the third day after the birth... Mary went out of the cave and, entering a stable, placed the child in the manger, and the ox and the ass... incessantly adored Him. Then was fulfilled that which was said by Habakkuk the prophet saying. Between two animals you are made manifest"."

Since then, the ox and ass have stolen the show. There is now hardly a nativity depiction in which they do not appear. On Roman sarcophagi they are there to the exclusion even of Mary. Other animals come and go, like the camels which appeared in Rubens's Adoration of the Magi, or the dove representing the Holy Ghost in some schools of art, but the ox and the ass are never eclipsed. They move ever closer



Camels replace the oxen and asses in Rubens's Adoration of the Magi

Cover photograph of schoolchildren playing Mary, Joseph and a crocodile in the nativity stable, by JACK DANIELS

and the second s

to the baby Jesus. By the 11th century the ox can be found actually standing on the manger in which the child lies. eating the hay; there are also images to be found of the ox and the ass eating the swaddling clothes abandoned by Jesus. It is not clear whether this is some spiritual representation, or the work of an artist who knew a thing or

two about the behaviour of donkeys. One vital link in the chain of events which started with Pseudo-Matthew's ox and ass, and eventually led to a child dressed as a crocodile turning up on our farm last week, is provided by St Francis of Assisi.

in the early 13th century, three years before he died, St Francis celebrated the birth of Jesus in a manner we would recognise today. In A Short Life against plague."

St Francis embraced Christmas like no one before him, calling it the "feast

nativity play is described: "... he made ready a manger and told the people to bring hay and also an ox and an ass. When all were assembled for Christ's Mass, this Feast was celebrated. Francis standing before the manger and overflowing with joy even to tears... (an observer) declared that he saw a little child of exceeding beauty sleeping in that manger, who woke from his infant sleep when Francis streached his arms to Him. The people of Greccio said that the hay which was used at that manger afterwards cured sick beasts, and was a marvellous remedy

of feasts". With his heart and mind brimming with his beijef that all of of St Francis of Assisi, the first ever God's creation, man and beast, was

mas is their time of year, and the thought that scholars centuries hence might look back at carefully preserved archive video and celebrate a lumpy. leathery-skinned creature with an oversized snout as being as much a part of the nativity scene was just too much for Melba to bear. She bucked and reared and threatened to upset the manger and kick out all the lights.

To cool the situation, I took my inspiration from St Francis and ordered that corn and grain might be spread so that the animals could feast in abundance. This guaranteed peace on earth and goodwill to all, at least till the crocodile was safely on the school bus heading homeward.

deserving of similar respect he de-clared one Christmas that, "If I could

speak to the emperor, I would ask that a general law be made that all who can

should scatter corn and grain along the roads so that the birds and animals

might have an abundance of food on

the day of such great solemnity, especially our sisters the larks".

Which fondness for larks, perhaps, contributed to the eventual decree

which went out from the television producer that the pupils of Hardwick Middle School in Bury St Edmunds

should dress as the animals of their

choice and come to our nativity play, to

satisfy the longing of St Francis for all

creation to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
The choir of St Edmundsbury Cathedral came, too. to sing glorious carols in the barn, which until then had

echoed only to the muttered oaths of

farmworkers, the squeaking of mice and the occasional hoot of the owl. Martin Shaw, canon of St Edmundsbury, came too and tried to

deliver a thoughtful homily while being towed around by a violently

so tightly that at one stage the poor-

One thing you will not see on the

Christmas morning television show is

the horrified look on the face of Melba

the donkey when the crocodile first

Donkeys clearly know that Christ-

nd thus it came to pass that

there came among the ani-mals and the film crew a

crocodile whose mask fitted

unco-operative goat.

approached the crib.

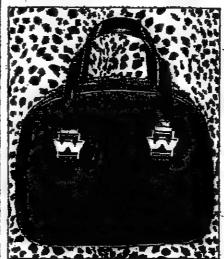
• Away in a Manger, produced by Ray Bruce of CTVC, can be seen on ITV on Christmas Day at 9.30am.

#### THREE OF A KIND

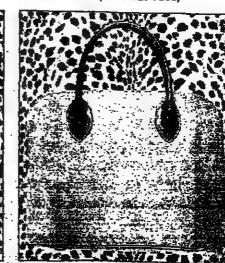
AS WITNESSED on the catwalks of Milan and Paris this season, the holdall shopper is the bag for the girl who has a little more than everything. Here are three of the best to suit every price range.



Bronze and black suede leather shopping bag, £265, from Armando Pollini, 35 Brook Street, London W1 (0171-629 7606)



Black nylon bowling bag, £105, Wannabe by Patrick Cox. Dickins & Jones, Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 7070)



Moss molestin and tan leather trim beg, £59.50, Franchetti Bond, 7 The Burlington Arcade, London W1; 35 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (mail order, 0171-924 2602)

# All wrapped up and ready to party



Heath Brown looks at what to wear over an evening dress

so you can keep warm

and still look stylish

arty clothes should always have that feelglam factor, even if it's the cover-up coat you'll be wearing in the taxt on the way there.

But it's so easy to get it wrong. Clashing hem-lengths, ugly mixes of fabrics, down-atheel jackets that go to the office each day — women have seen and worn them all.

The choices for covering up. those freezing shoulders are many. Elegant evening coats are the obvious option but can be a little too expensive for. such infrequent use. Conversely, reverting to your trusty daytime greatcoat or overcoat denies you a glamorous entrance and rarely goes well with delicate silks, satins or

The best buys are coats that can double up to be worn for other occasions.

Susie Faux, of the image consultancy Wardrobe, recommends a luxuriously soft, long, black cashmere or light wool day coat. "This can be a simple answer to covering a long evening gown," she says, "and a long-term clothing investment for both day and

But avoid unnecessary dec-oration. Often, good, plain, long coats such as those from the La Redoute catalogue (prices start from £145). Marks & Spencer (about £140) and Mulberry (about £495) will



detailing and are not too dressy for the day but anonymous enough for evening—and they will not date quickly. so they will be still looking

stylish next season.

For a slightly more trendy look at an affordable price,

Oasis offers a full-length black coat, with fur-trimmed collar and cuffs (£119.99). Or you could add a fake fur collar to your neckline, as shown below, by Jackson (£59), with a

Laura Ashley unlined light-weight velvet coat (£125). Velvet can offer more in-

beware, capes and cloaks are an acquired taste: they can look stunning but there is a danger of appearing too much like you are going to a fancy dress party — a sort of Mystic-Meg-cum-Moll-Flanders look. To avoid this, drape your cape over modern, sexy, slight-

ly clubby minimal outfits in shiny satin or lurex to give a new twist to an old favourite. A welcome addition to many

spired choices. Styles to look

for are either long-line coats or

more romantic capes. But

wardrobes this year has been the full-length cardigan (or knitted coat, as some labels describe them). It is an up-todate look that fares well over long sheath dresses or with

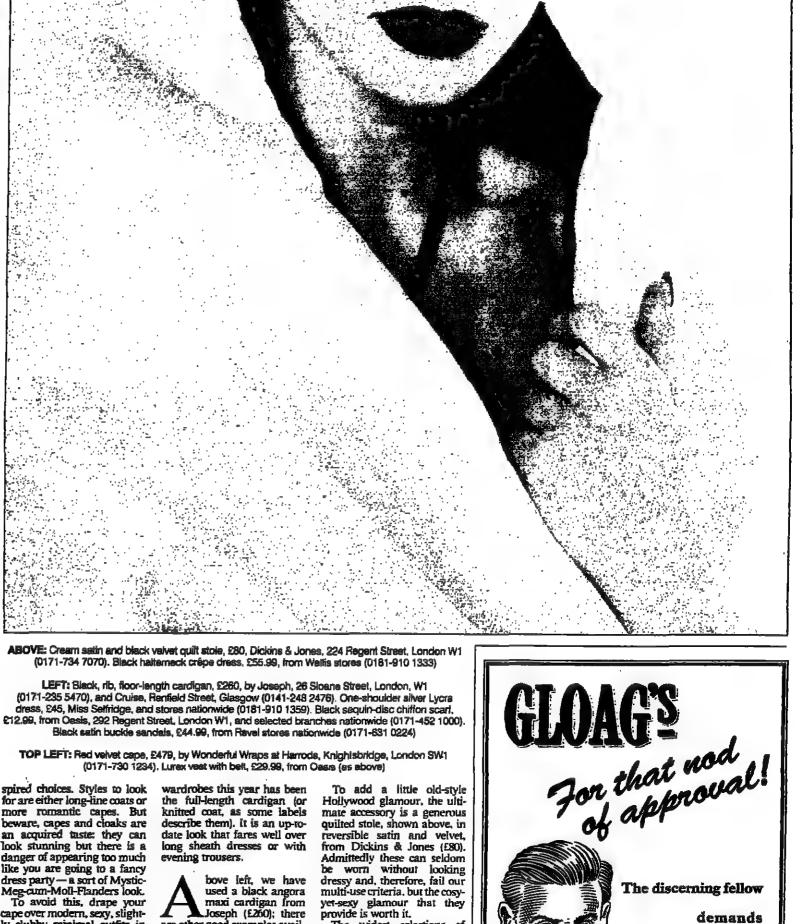
(0171-734 7070). Black halternack crépe dress, £55.99, from Walfis stores (0181-910 1333)

Black satin buckle sandals, £44.99, from Revel stores nationwide (0171-631 0224)

used a black angora maxi cardigan from Joseph (£260); there are other good examples available from Nicole Farhi (£149). Jigsaw (£120) and Miss Selfridge (£40).

To add a little old-style Hollywood glamour, the ultimate accessory is a generous quilted stole, shown above, in reversible satin and velvet, from Dickins & Jones (£80). Admittedly these can seldom be worn without looking dressy and, therefore, fail our multi-use criteria, but the cosyyet-sexy glamour that they provide is worth it.

stoles can be found at Liberty and other large department



Gloag's

Gin in his

cocktail.

He knows

before he

drinks it that

it will be extra refreshing and extra

smooth. The unique 'marrying' process

following distillation

takes care of that!

THE Classic GIN.



ABOVE: Blue velvet coat dress, £125, from Laure Ashley nationwide (01686 622116). Blue two-tone shell top, £27, from Dorothy Perkins nationwide (0171-291 2604). Blue two-tone trousers, £99, from Joseph (as above). Blue fake-fur collar, £59, by Jackson, from Ferwicks, Bond Street, W1 (0171-243 9900). Photographer: Richard Burns. Make-up: Sally Kvalhelm, Styling: Amandip Uppal

GROWING TIPS

■ Keep the plants out of direct sunlight but in a bright position, in rich, moist, fine compost and a humid atmosphere and they will

flower from March to November or December. Allow to dry out before watering and give a high potash feed throughout the

If the plants are likely to suffer

temperatures between IC and 10C, they should be kept as dry as

flowering should be dead-headed and watered sparingly. They should not be fed until March

when they should be repotted to flower in May.

M As the flowers open, the plants need a good, high potash (eed. Mr Rose waters his with quarter-

cuttings taken in early autumn. Choose a middle-aged leaf with

compost mixture and push the

emerge in as many weeks. These will flower in nine months. Plant them into individual pots covered loosely with cloudy plastic bags from greengrocers, and leave them on a windowsill without any direct light.

Keep the pot relatively small to encourage flowering but make sure new leaves don't touch the

edge of the pot because they grow

no flower stems. Cut a transverse section of a leaf, make a stit in the

strength tomato feed. Propagation is easy by leaf

leaf about i's in down. About six plantlets should

any direct light.

Plants that have finished

#### GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON

hundred every winter from my begonia tubers — and still they come. — J.L. Thorne, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

A The most effective chemi-cals against vine weevils are only available to commercial growers. A good biological control for amateurs is Nemasys H. available from Defenders, Occupation Road, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5EN (01233 813121). Nemasys H is effective when the soil temperature is above I2C.

l have four daturas in pots. Last year they bloomed profusely, this year there are no flowers at all. I have fed them weekly with tomato food. What am I doing wrong? — C.M. Page. Westcliff on Sea. Essex.

Given a chance and space. A brugmansias (as we now have to call the woody daturas) make a massive, greedy, fibrous root system. They should produce white or golden trumpets through summer and autumn. After flowering, cut them back hard. They will then shoot away again and, as spring comes, they will need rich feeding to maximise early growth. Remember that all parts of the plant are

I have a beautiful passion I have a beautiful pession flower. Passiflora caerulea, which covers the walls of my patio. But every year it suffers from mould, which a friend says is due to lack of water. How do I treat this without spraying, and can I eat the fruit? — J. Whittaker, Brigh-

Aphids sometimes attack the shoots of passion flowers, causing mould on the lower leaves from excreted honeydew, so check that first. Plants with insufficient water and in very dry air sometimes die back at the tips, giving the impression of a fungal wilt. But if your plant is fruiting well it cannot be too short of water. Try watering more generously and hosing the plant over now and then, when the sun is not directly on it.

You can eat the fruit of blue passion flower, the only one that can be grown well outdoors, but they are insipid. There are more than 20 edible species, but only a

replies to readers' letters What specific controls do you recommend against vine weevils? I kill more than a fruit, including bright pink flowered Passiflora mollissima with banana-shaped fruit. Of those species suitable for a cold greenhouse in Britain, the following have good fruit: Passiflora actin-

ia, P. edulis (the common granadilla), P. mixta, and P. mollissima. For more information look at John Vanderplank's book Passion Flowers, recently revised and reprinted by Cassell at £30 (ISBN 0 304 34216 5).

Can we put grass clip-pings which contain sycamore seeds in our compost bin without producing hundreds of seedlings when we use the compost? — A.Sennett, Chislehurst, Kent.

A Yes. A good compost heap or bin is perfectly capable of cooking the life out of sycamore seeds. The risk, perhaps, is that there are always parts of a compost heap, at the edges, which do not cook properly, and these might contain viable seeds. This is why It is important to turn compost heaps at some stage to re-oxygenate the heap and to turn the dryer, cooler outsides into the centre.

A Cure for Moles: I. Morley of Wantage writes to tell a delightful tale of her vicar, who rid his garden of moles by putting the mechanism from a musical birthday card in a plastic bag buried in the ground. The moles have kept away ever

• Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any



Jane Owen on how a single cutting inspired a Bristol man to raise glorious blooms on a budget

# Love flowers in a cold climate



Chris Rose, who grows streptocarpus plants in his unheated flat, took three firsts this year at the Royal Horticultural Society Show

uy a streptocarpus from a garden centre and it will probably come with a label announcing that the plant will not suffer temperatures below 10C. They have lovely flowers — funnel shaped with a bonnetlike frill and colours ranging from pink to blue - but, for those of us who use heating sparingly, 10C minimum is more than can be promised to a plant.

However streptocarpus, which originate from South Africa, are tougher than many plant labels suggest and Chris Rose, one of Britain's authorities on the plant, cultivates them in a flat without any central heating. Last winter, in his streptocarpus-filled lean-to, the temperature dipped to minus IC but all the plants survived

By "all" he is referring to several hundred - and that's just the leanto. In the rest of the flat the numbers top the thousand mark; trestle tables around the windows sag under the weight of plants: his computer is surrounded by 100 or so and, underneath the trestle anis inai have linisha

out into a few well-shaded cold frames in the garden of his Bristol flat. This is obsessive (and highly successful) plantmanship on a budget - Mr Rose reckons his highest cost comes from the compost he has to buy in, about £100 a year at most.

Ten years ago a fellow student at Bristol University gave him a leaf fragment. Out of courtesy Mr Rose, who had his work cut out caring for his two large allotments and special collections of iris, helianthemum or rock rose, pelargoniums and hardy geraniums, coaxed the leaf cutting into a plant which stubbornly refused to flower.

After a couple of years Mr Rose resolved to throw it on the compost hear but, in that curious way that plants have when threatened with shears, spades or dark thoughts, it produced dark violet flowers with a yellow centre - it was probably a Constant Nymph'.

And with it flowered Mr Rose's magnificent passion which has overwhelmed his life ("I forgot to have a social life," he says) leaving only his job with the the Green Party untouched. His dedication has now received the recor flowering have a rest. More spill deserves: this August, at one of its

prestigious Westminster shows, the Royal Horticultural Society awarded Mr Rose three firsts for his streptocarpus plants, all his own hybrids grown in modest surroundings and shipped to London on an InterCity 125. None of the

award-winning plants was named. For Mr Rose, the pleasure comes from the plants rather than the glory of naming, although coleagues in the world of African

#### WEEKEND TIPS

Take root cuttings in a pot of plants such as phiox, acan verbascom, and forms of Geranium sanguineum.

Protect house plants such

as poinsettia from the two evils of overheated rooms and cold, draughty window ledges.

Top-dress fruit trees under glass with manure and boocmeal. If required, apply simazine on bare ground an strawberry plants and cane fruits, to stop weeds next year.

Relieve shrubs best under

the weight of snow before it

violets (cousins of streptocarpus) are trying to persuade him that while (DWEL) 105 gives him an accurate record of a plant with dusky red, white-throated flowers. it might be more user-friendly to give it a name.

(DWEL) 105 was a mere 51 weeks old -- that is 51 weeks from a seed -when it won a first for Mr Rose at the RHS show. His other two firsts were awarded to one with sturning magenta flowers, and the other with cloudy violet blue face with

What distinguishes Mr Rose's plants from those you might buy in supermarkets to put on a kitchen windowsill are the variety of flower colour and size, and the size of the leaves. While most commercially grown streptocarpus have at least one of their brittle primula-like leaves reaching about six inches, his plants tend to have their largest leaves reaching to about ten inches. But that is due mainly to the fact that he grows his in such low light levels (streptocarpus can't take direct light anyway) that the plants have to compensate by growing leaves. Strentocarrous are

growing tips box, above) and so, although Mr. Rose will not sell his

The national collection of streptocarpus is held by Dibley's Nursery, Llanelidan, Ruthin, Wales LLI5 2LG (01978 790677) which has a good selection of plants for sale to the public. About 60 varieties are available on mail order and the nursery recommends choosing plants now to be sent out

to the address above. Those wanting to visit the nursery or the national collection should ring the number above.

Mr Rose emphasises that his collection is likely to appeal to streptocarpus enthusiasts rather than those who enjoy looking at gardens. Those who would like to visit the collection should write to Mr Rose at 26 Devonshire Road. Bristol BS6 7NJ. Please add your telephone number or include easy to grow from cuttings (see stamped addressed envelope.

#### ACROSS

1 Impressive occasion for Jumbo's last appearance (6)

4 Loth to suggest something of Scott's to read (3.5.2.10)

16 Pirate takes succession of ships with call to scuttle one completely (4,4,3,6) 17 Ouickness that produces illusion of

muvement (9) IS Artistic technique of a dab hand (7)

19 Granny, for example, is after the best halrniece (7)

20 Author who didn't have to abide Arnold's questioning (II)

21 Preparation for launch that finally

comes to nothing (5-4)

22 Vegetable 1 swallowed with new drink (8)

23 Prepared to work, dust off promising notes (Si

26 Mystery of killers training to go out East (6.23,6.7)

30 Firmly secure stand after front falls

32 Data analyst is a big government supporter G

34 Around midday, tucked in article

dropped from first issue by editor (7) 36 Prepare for job as union negotiator

37 Dreadful pain associated with a loss for such as Housman's lad (9)

39 Game one follows with people is

disaster (9)

41 Wonderful person you may have at dinner soon 📆

42 Military leader has got an appalling shape (7)

43 Deposit in jewel-bearing vein not

exhausted (9)

44 Incomplete feature arrived back in skeletal form (9) 45 So long in a detached state (5)

46 Fell to cover point, irritatingly caught (7)

48 Chinese craft turns horizontally to iollow missile (7)

50 Start of good weather for harvest (5) 51 Story of a teacher's most effective

period (5.5.24.4.6) 57 Is left with one noun and two pronouns (%)

58 Just starting to move slowly. Antarctic explorer abandoning Pole (S)

59 Acidhead showing acuity (9)

62 Strike in French terminal (4,2.5)

64 Current controller turned ruddy

odd, comparatively (7) 66 Surprised sound from Scot tucking

into cheese roll (7) 67 Change positions of pieces in back

rank (9) 68 Bear left here - it's the terminus

69 Infamous book-keeper (4.11,5) 70 Ring here for service (6)

1 A stupid chap is unable to commu-

nicate (7) 2 After which sovereign was replaced by half-crowns (8,10) 3 Preservative sailor put on unfin-

Ished bird (9) 5 Encourage to try to catch up (7)

Outwitted in rebellion, and put on 7 Curious rationale for one who

transfers ownership (9) 8 Thoroughly strip and get to wash

9 Put into perspective warning over

10 Book-maker taking one's capital on

a horse at the start (6) 11 Elizabeth's favourite cheese (9)

12 Take carriage about a mile, or go by foot (5)

13 One doesn't originally behave as a sort of flatterer (8)

14 Bull has no ring - removed from nose repeatedly i

15 As one dreadfully crude and so on

22 I almost make a mistake in drugs before operation done for first time

Applying a name tag in error on bottom of sketch (II)

25 Ready reckoner for traveller abroad

26 Annie Oakley, perhaps — or La Pasionaria, say? (10) 27 East European region in which Slav

ran a tiny resort (12) 28 Initially putting a knot here'd check if recollection needed (6,12)

29 The temerity of the girl, introducing herself (10) 31 Hear prop got injured, put in body-

33 Sign of ominous development in eolf-club handle (4.3.2.3.5)

35 Had a chance to show off country cottage (5) 38 Does she make herself a name in the

characters (9) 47 Inexperienced fielder, but he helps the bowlers (5-6)

40 lt's swell, having met nice US

49 It may suit one fine, having a regular day off (6.4)

52 There's precisely nothing in odd parts of Argentina - such as this (9) 53 Foolish acts, but initially stopping

short of mad ones (9) 54 Copy most of answe punishment for Jack (9)

55 Like some organs, or well-tempered claviers? (8) 56 A large number of handouts distrib-

59 After Christmas spirits, he decided

to stop being tight (7) 60 Bird trapped by cunning, without mercy (7)

61 About to check, having received a 63 Turn over gun, one Coh - that's an

NAME.

order (5) 65 Quietly concealed order unleashing hound (5)

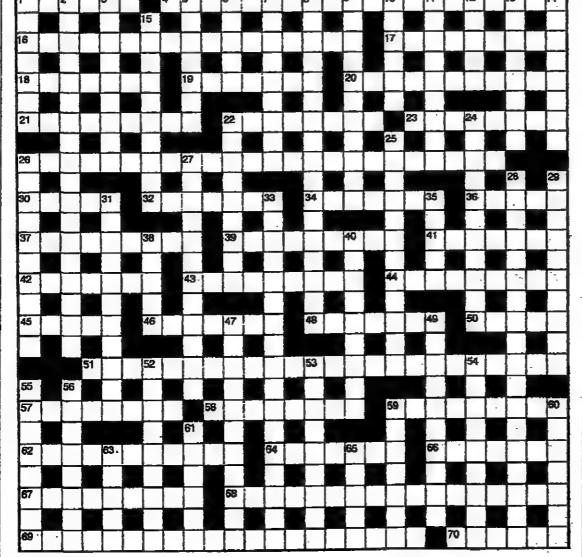
### **CHRISTMAS** JUMBO CROSSWORD



Win a methuselah of Moët & Chandon champagne and £100 in our festive quiz. Five runnersup will receive £100. Entries, by January 6, to: Christmas Jumbo



Crossword, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. Solution on January 11



ADDRESS.

#### **Times Two Christmas Holiday Crossword**

There are no prizes for this crossword. The

8246

17 History in date order (9) 18 Constructed anew (7)

21 Malefactor (9) 22 Mountaineers (8)

(4,3,3,3,4,3,4)

39 Country wear (5,4)

41 Railed town vehicle (?) 42 Instructor (?)

44 (To the) ultimate level (3.6) 45 Fruit; water variety (5)

50 Egypt peninsula (5)

57 Eastern 69

59 Metal for recycling (5.4)

62 Oblong (11)

64 Foot lever (7)

67 Most hot, and (weather) (9) 68 Royal birthday parade

(8,3.6)69 Eg gong, drum, pismo

70 Regard highly (5)

DOWN

i (US) down-and-out area

5 Repayer for injury (7)

7 Repetition (of action) (9)

9 Reversible words (11)

10 Subtle distinction (6)

11 Titiliating joint (5,4)

13 Barred; kept out (8)

22 Steering group (9)

24 Wool-gatherers (11)

27 Muscle spasm;

overactivity (12)

29 Etruscan (10)

(Coward) (11)

25 Of acerbic speech (5-7)

26 When light meal is ready

28 (Scientists') magnifier (8,10)

. 31 Keep girl off stage, Mrs --

33 Pip its hero (Dickers) (5,12)

40 (Escaping) without harm

35 Channel: abandon (5)

36 Human trunk (5)

14 Largest land animal (8)

15 Cause-of-death exam (4-6)

12 Slowly (mus.) (5)

8 "Gov"t . . . by the people, for

the people" speech (10,7)

6 it. port; a cake (5)

(4.3)2 Self-descriptively (written)

3 Swashbuckling courage (7-

19 Crop storehouse (7) 20 Of poor quality (3,2,2,4)

23 Heavy club (8) 26 Prove people's

30 Custard apple (5)

34 Confident; definite (7) 36 Revive: mass meeting (5)

43 Clumsy incompetence (9)

48 An enactment (7)

(5,23,5,9)

58 Wearing fingerless gloves

66 Fungus disease (7)

(10,10) .

answers will be published on Monday, December 23

## ACROSS 1 Beer/lemonade drink (6)

4 Concealing 16 Between ruling ministries

32 Making ground plan (7)

37 One leaving for new life [9]

46 Demand too much of (7)

51 Small, proper beginnings

hybrids, his "bits of leaves" -which are available to any fellow enthusiast so long as he has the stock - might be worth a try.

in March, at the beginning of the growing season. Dibley's catalogue is free — send an A4 stamped addressed envelope

dacobean mansi

polical profics

 $\{\chi^{n_{i,j}}\}$ 

63 Farewell (5)

47 Mixed-fruit ice cream (5-6) 49 Old hearing aid (3,7) 52 Theatre patrons (9) 53 Pub landlord (9)

54 Roomy (9) 55 Thick bread slice (8) 96 More honest (8)

59 Add sugar (to) (7) 60 Patent remedy (7) 61 Very drunk (slang) (6)

65 Jeans labric (5)

# Plants that bring back tropical memories

Stephen Anderton explains how to translate those exotic plants seen on

holiday into your own garden

ust back from Madeira and the Canaries, my mind is full of how to translate to Britain those tropical effects and fabulous vegetation to make my own Quinta do Saffron Walden.

Without the hot sunshine. achieving those wild, hot colours is not easy. But it can be done. If you want to bring home the tropical style, it has to be done with a different range of plants.

Madeira has one of those

ali-things-to-all-plants climates which allows ordinary cak trees and camellias to grow alongside exotic protea from South Africa and sizeable trees of the angel's trumpet. Brugmansia suaveolens, dripping with enough trumpets to start a brass band. But in hotter, drier Tenerife, you see at once that even grass, let alone a lawn, is a great and

rare extravagance.
Colourful exotics are easy,
but a lawn needs attention and especially water. In some places coarse Bermuda grass, Cynodon dactylon, is substitoted for our range of finer

reminder of dampness and constant rains. What replaces it is a matter of personal preference. Paving is efficient but still very British. Gravel is an option, or, better still, the powdery crushed stone seen under trees in town squares on the Continent. Bare, cultivated earth looks right, too. Never mind that Commandment of English Gardening saying no square inch should be left unplanted, this is tropical gardening we are trying to imitate here, and in those climates there is plenty of bare This is the place where hotclimate gardeners build little circular ramparts of stones or soil 5-6in high, into which a puddle of water can be delivered from a hose pipe. Then the precious ichor sinks down to the plant's roots, and is not

late autumn was the strongly coloured climbers which we cannot grow here. Bougainvilleas, scarlet passion flowers and endless members of the bignonia family, including pink pandores, and orange

And the second

capensis) and the "Fire" vine Pyrostegia venusta. The only one we can get away with here is the orange trumpet vine Campsis radicans.

But if we cannot have the wildest climbers, at least we can grow any number of colourful herbaceous exotics, and plants with extravagant foliage. There would be canmas, dahlias, verbenas, salvias, zinnias and tithonia for colour, and, for foliage, grey-green melianthus, the almost hardy banana Musa basjoo, the cut-leaved rinus, variegated cannas, and spotted leopard plant Farfugium japonicum Aureomaculatum'.

The great reed of the tropical islands, Arundo donax, would be included for its skyline tall stems and drooping windwoven leaves. For spiky fo-liage and palm-substitutes, there would be cordylines, yuccas and phormium.

here are so many tender things, including houseplants, which can be bedded must be watered.
In a pseudo-tropical British can sit out in their pots. The garden, getting rid of the lawn begins at once to remove the summer if you want to give the impression of tropical gardening. Clivias can sit out in their pots. The Swiss cheese plant Monthly in the can sit out in their pots. deliciosa, can be plunged in the soil still in its pot for the produce the cuckoo-pint flowers and green, phallic, pineapple-and-banana flavoured fruits here.

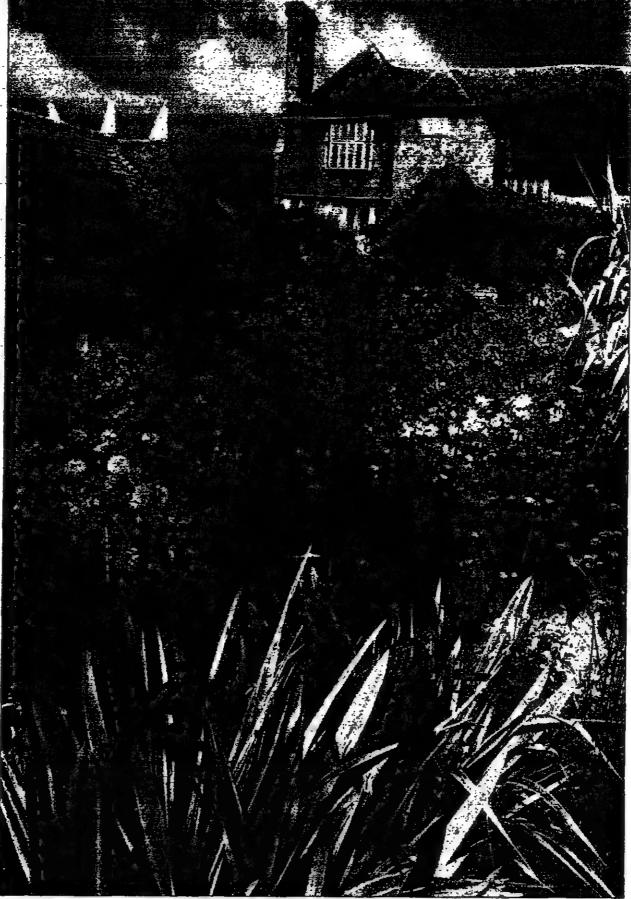
With shelter, even large leaved begonias such as "Lucerna", rex and scharffii can he planted out for the summer. And with a little serious taking of cuttings the autumn before you could have a whole bed of these exotics to plant out.

.. And if we cannot have the naturalised banks of succulents such as prickly pear and out smaller numbers of them, overwintered in a greenhouse.

Care must be taken when planting out evergreen houseplants that the transition from house to garden is gradual. Indoor gloom even to British summer outdoors can scorch subverted by grass.

The striking feature of all hardening off, like bedding the island gardens I saw in plants, to adjust to the sun and plants, to adjust to the sun and the wind. The transition from

a greenhouse is less fierce.
Curiously, to create the tropical effect, what we most need is not a drought summer. though plenty of sun is help-ful. What helps most is an Cape honeysuckle (Tecomaria - early start to summer warmth,



Storm clouds over Great Dixter, Sussex, emphasise the "tropical" plants that become a cauldron of colour in late summer



Canna, verbena and dahlia can all give that "tropical" effect

so that our season is length-ened and these tender plants have more days in which to grow, establish and strut their stuff. To that end, good, rich

At Great Dixter in Sussex, Christopher Lloyd has made a tropical garden in an old rose garden, surrounded by tall yew hedges, which becomes a cauldron of colour in late summer. To walk into it, even in autumn, is like drowning in fruit salad.

Fergus Garrett, the head gardener at Great Dixter. likes to start plants for bedding out — such as Nicotiana sylvestris and the castor oil plant — as early as he can, to gain time. But he never plants them out until the weather has properly warmed up, so they do not suffer a check. Better to be

potted on under glass than checked by cold.

Once the plants are out, watering, when it happens, is generous and thorough; wa-The little-silg-offer school is frowned on. In the well-enriched soil, plants grow hard and fast, so that by August, when the garden is coming up to its peak, foliage

is as generous as flower.
Paulownia stems stooled last winter are fat rods 12ft high with leaves the size of dinner plates. You can walk under the banana leaves. And all in dear old Britain.

• Stephen Anderton was a guest lecturer on The Times Gardening Cruise to Madeira and the Canaries last month. This week he won a Garden Writers Guild award in the consumer press category.

**HOMES & GARDENS** 

Spoil yourself with choice BALA LANTERNS Not 1, not 2, bur 3 new caralogues from Mr Fothergill's...

Headrals of greet new variety The first hardy, double persons.

8 new supflowers for you to sry Not surmally available. REND-MADE in blacklaquered solid copper with solid brass fittings. Re-designed from an original Victorian gas lautern, wired Pare and control perce Bap grow unjoids strain plans. The new & unique 'Gorden Soci 160 pages of gorden inspection

Hotines 001638 751887/ Go an, 751887/ spoil yourself: 552512 Westerley Robergille, Days TDL, Kentled, Nameder CSS 7QB

Feeding: 01438 751424

THE TIMES To advertise every work in Come & Gerlan الده جدعار



phase specily which product SHOW SITE - SOUTHAM FIDAL Long Itchington, Nr Rugby, Wareholder CV23 8Cal. Zoe Hoekhu on 0171 688 6116. Tec 01926 815757



Herb & Wild-flower seeds. Quality garden labels: zinc, copper, aluminium, plastic, scratch-on & wooden.

24" x 18" Beautiful botanical cards. Send for free lists (card or label sample; 2 x 26p stamps) Wells & Winter, Mereworth, Maidstone ME18 5NB.

TERENCE CUNEO STATEMENT The Final Catalogue

of Signed Limited Editions Each print is 💈 signed by the 0171 935 0818 late actist. Prices Issue £75 to £175. Fact 0171 935 5720 AD A NEW GUARDIAN **GARAGE DOOR** 

POR TREE NO OBLIGATION PHONE NOW: GUARDIA 461010 LIPTO 9PM - 7 DAYS A WEEK

Orchids ! All you need !.... Where to see and buy them, and how to grow them. For a free guide send two 1st class stamps to: British Orchid Growers Association, 38 Florence Road, College Town, Cumberley, Surrey, GU15 4QD.



# The Scientific Solution



Incredible low-cost computer technology! Krystal fits in minutes - it's the simplest, most efficient answer to lime scale problems ever devised!

Experience soft-water benefits NOW throughout your home - clean, green and absolutely no chemicals! You can fit Krystal yourself in 5 minutes

and appliances. \* DISSOLVES existing imescale from your whole water system. • GIVES YOU better latter from less soep, Water is kinder to skin and hair. \* PRESERVES healthglving natural substances in your water. \* SAVES YOU MONEY on make and detergents.\* MAKES YOUR BOILER more efficient and prolongs its life.

TREATS THE WHOLE HOUSE FOR LESS TIMM ON 90-DAY HOME TRIAL \$15-88 SERVING TEST

Krystel, 3 Old Ford Court, Penney, Wiles SN9 SAC Tel: 01672 564113 e-mail: sales@closriow.win-uk.net TRADE AND OVERSEAS ENDURIES WELCOMED Customers in trained call 1800 675555 (24 hours)

## The Jacobean mansion of mystery

🖷 Hall Place, Berley, London (0181-303 7777).

At junction of A2 and A223. Open Mon-Fri 7.30am-dusk, weekends and Bank Hols 9am-dusk. Free.

Many of the parks in the boroughs of Greater London are a public mystery whereas they deserve to be much better known and visited like the great country house gardens in rural counties. Many survive from the grand private houses built when London was the hub of political and social life, and Jacobean Hall Place is a prime example.

This outstanding mansion is in immaculately maintained gardens whose extent belies their urban surroundings. At this time of year the elegant proportions of the garden are best appreciated; spacious lawns and fine trees leading to walks

along the River Cray.

Outstanding topiary provides winter shape, while the yew hedge and ancient brick wall that back two sides of a double herbaceous border also help preserve the garden's framework.

For anyone in the area looking for a walk in an historic setting, Hall Place offers a lesser-known alternative to London's renowned historic parks such as Osterley, Chiswick and Syon.

Roundhay Park (Tropical World Canal Gardens), Roundhay Road,

Leeds (0113-266 1850). Take A58 Roundhay Road from city :centre; off A6120 northern ring road. Open daily (except Dec 25),

10am-dusk Free As far removed from an intimate, private garden as you could imagine, Roundhay Park is the ideal place to visit during the winter holiday period when it is a kaleidoscope of eye-opening surprises for children and horticultural rarities for the

parents. The park has belonged to Leeds city council (whose reputation for maintaining and managing the historic houses and gardens in their area is second to none) since 1871, before which the site was an enormous kitchen and flower garden belonging to the wealthy Nicholson OPEN THE WEEKENING



The Temple of Apollo at Stourhead

family. The two great features today are the ornamental canal gardens and the tropical greenhouses (whose collection is

only bettered by Kew).

Roundhay offers the bonus of fauna to complement the flora: there are monkeys, butterflies, birds and other creatures suited to the habitat. And there is also plenty of parkland for walking and enjoying the English winter before mov-ing beneath the glass for something altogether more exotic.

Stourhead, Stourion, Wilishire (01747 840348).

Off A303 at Mere, three miles north via B3092 to Stourton. Open daily all year 9am-dusk. £3, children £1.50.

It is admirable that the National Trust not only keeps the jewel of its i8th-century landscape gardens open all year but offers a reduced entrance fee during the winter months. As I have written during the past weeks about other landscape gardens (Studley Royal and Rievault Terrace for instance) there is a certain

magic about these places in winter with which no amount of summer colour and foliage can compete.

The quality of light that enhances the views across Stourhead's beautiful lake, picking up on the dome of the Pantheon at one end or the bridge and Bristol Cross at the other makes one appreciate the vision of the 18th-century garden-makers such as Henry Hoare, creator of Stourhead rom 1741.
I cannot think of a better antidote to the

excesses of Christmas Day than a brisk circuit of the Stourhead lake, taking in the

various detours to the grotto, the Temple of Apollo perched among the trees above one side of the lake, and the paths that lead off among the trees. And of course, if you are purist like myself, you will see Henry Hoare's 18thcentury landscape and the trees added between 1790 and 1840 by his great-

nephew, Richard Colt Hoare, without the blazing colour of the rhododendrons added at the end of the 19th century, which attracts thousands of visitors in late spring and early summer.

Morrab Subtropical Garden, Penzance, Cornwall (01736 6234),

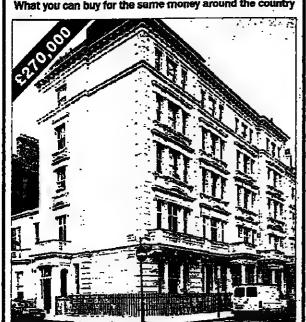
Signposted from Penzance. Open all year dawn to dusk Free.

Britain's climate hardly allows for broadleafed evergreens from tropical or warm temperate places, but southern Cornwall is one of the few places they survive. There is no better contrast to the cold, bare branches that dominate most gardens at this time of year than Morrab, which

deserves its subtropical name. The garden was created during the 19th century by Reginald Upcher, who took full advantage of exous species of trees and shrubs then being introduced to Britain. Rarities such as the New Zealand cabbage palm tree combine well with the winter-flowering sasanqua camellias and wonderfully period architectural flourishes, such as the bandstand and ornate fountain, to preserve the rich Victorian

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

# HOMESWAP



floors of a corner Victorian house overlooking Warwick Square, half a mile from Victoria including a share of the freehold re, half a mile from Victoria Statton, costs £270,000, ons Residential, 0171-834 9998).



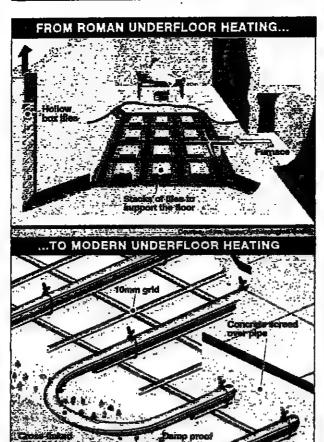
For the same sum this architect-designed six-bedroom family house on the banks of Loch Lomond, near Arrochar, Scotland



For a little more-\$295,000-you could buy this secluded ive-bedroom 19th century house in seven acres of formal gardens and woodland, at Coddenham, Suffolk. Oskwood

# Perfect for a night on the tiles

The Romans had the answer to heating today's open-plan and loft-style homes. Emma Mahony on the value of underfloor heating



nderfloor heating (UFH) is enjoying in Britain since times. Although it accounts for a minute fraction of the total heating market, loft apartments and self-build developments are demanding better heating for rooms with

One of the main reasons for the popularity of UFH is that it is cheap to install. While UFH has always been a favourite at the top of the end of the property market, lower prices are bringing it in line with radiators. You can now install a system from as little as £12 to £35 per sq metre. Prices vary

FREE SILVER-PLATED ICE BUCKET WORTH £59.99

Viners Silver-Plated Cutlery

according to location and size of the floor area: the greater the area, the cheaper it

Ian Mills of Wirsbo, one of the biggest underfloor heating attributes the interest to home owners who buy a plot of land and design their own houses. 'Although the capital cost is higher, UFH will last the life of the house and, unlike radiators, does not need renewing every 12 to 15 years," he says. "Once installed in a well-insulated building, the running costs will be considerably lower - particularly for cheaper running costs are



Madeleine Sanderson enjoys the warm stone floor of her apartment in west London, which has underfloor heating

because of the principle of radiant heat, which requires a lower air temperature because warmth is spread evenly across the room. Radiators give off convection heat, heat-ing the higher strata of the air in the room first instead of warming from the feet upwards

Some architects are particularly keen on the out-of-sight aspect of UFH, because it fits in with their minimalist designs. "Radiators can dictate how you finish a room. They are unnecessarily dominant across a space," says Ian Hogarth, of Litman Goddard Hogarth. "We often recom-mend underfloor heating to clients, especially in loft-style apartments where it helps

with open planning."

Madeleine Sanderson. film producer who lives in a loft-style apartment in west London, inherited her underfloor heating from the previous owner, an architect. "I'd never have thought of installing it myself," she says. "But it does seem to stop the stone floors being so chilly, especial-

ly when so much of the heat of the flat goes out through the big windows. My favourite bit is coming down the stairs in the morning and stepping on

omfort is the main reason why people choose heating. When Mark and Alex Hoyle restored the kitchen of Loddendon Manor at Staplehurst, Kent, they con-sidered installing heaters in the bottom of the kitchen units.

With an old timber-joisted ceiling nearly 25ft high and a floor space of 28 sq ft, radia-tors would have been ugly and ruined the period look, particularly when wall-mounted. "Underfloor heating was the best option, especially as the room was north facing," Mrs

As part of a six-week refurbishment, including underlaying a concrete floor before installing the heating, the system they put in cost about £3,000. "Our main cost was not the heating but the tiles;

we invested in an Umbria terracotta-style stone which cost £6,000 in total," Mrs Hoyle says. "But it is worth it

and the dogs love it."

Modern UFH systems are particularly suitable for ground floors, because they can be used with stone, marble, granite, ceramic tiles and timber. In the 1960s and 1970s, the systems were run on electricity and were expensive. Now they are based on hot water pushed through crosspolyethylene plastic pipes are laid in a snake or snail fashion and can be

linked to radiators upstairs. One of the main downsides to UFH installation is that it means a lot of upheaval, making it much more suitable for putting into new homes or where major refurbishment is

Most systems can be in-stalled with a normal heating boiler and are more energyefficient, because the system works at a lower temperature. To make radiators work they have to be about 80C to 85C.

When you consider that water in a hot tap is 55C, you can see that there is a lot of pressure on a boiler," says Rex Ingram, of the UFH Manufacturers' Association. "Water in the pipes for UFH need only be about 43C, no hotter than the

he flat break

Monte

paim of your hand." While Britain may have a long way to go until it reaches Germany's eco-mindedness. where 80 per cent of new houses have UFH, it has still come a long way since that Roman underfloor heating. In those days, the systems were building carrying hot gases through a flue into a central expansion chamber in the room. Temperature control was so hard to regulate that. as the floor got hotter, the Romans resorted to wearing

wooden-soled sandals. quite so dog-friendly. UFH Manufacturers' Association, 0181-941 7080.

■ Recommended companies: Wirsbo, 01293 548512; IPEC, 0171-David Robbins, 01424 830140:

Buy a 58-piece silverplated canteen of cutlery for £149.99, saving £200 on the mrrp of £349.99 and get a silver-plated

ice bucket FREE

Our Viners 58piece cutlery set is housed in an attractive, lined, wooden canteen and contains eight place settings of table knife, table fork, dessert knife, dessert fork, dessert spoon, teaspoon, soup spoon and two serving spoons. Available

in a choice of four designs - Kings, Bead. Harley and Dubarry - the cutlery has a 15year guarantee.

You will also receive a FREE silver-plated ice bucket, with a four litre capacity and decorative ring handles, mrrp of £59.99.

This special price of £149.99 offers a total mrrp saving of £259.99, inclusive of carriage. Please allow 28 days for delivery. If you are not completely satisfied return within seven days for a full refund. Offer available in the UK only.

Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order/s (no cash) to: The Times Cutlery Offer FX221 PO Box 69, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 7ZD or use the 24 hour order line below.





Harley Bead Kings Dubarry

#### The Times Viners Silver-Plated **Cutlery Offer**

	P	tust Code
Pattern Required	Quantity	£ Per Item
		£149.99
	Total	
Price includes posta order(s) made payab		ng. i enclose a cheque/pos ses FT800
Value		kı
	/isa card num	

You may be sunt further information on offers and services which may be of riterest to you. If you do not wish to participate please tick box.

FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE 01525-851945 (24 hours)

# A clean sweep

for Santa

s you hang the stockings around the fireplace on Christmas Eve. A spare a thought for the grey-haired old gent who will shortly be arriving to fill them. In a recent survey, nine out of ten Santas said they had developed coughs as a result of inhaling soot. It was bad enough sending little boys up chimneys. but sending OAPs down them seems like a very cruel form of exploitation.

But there is something we can do. We can have our chimneys regularly cleaned. which at least eases the pressure on Santa's lungs and cuts down on his laundry bills. A dirty chimney does no favours for the rest of us either. Recent incidents of carbon monoxide poisoning from a blocked or partially blocked flue, and the increasing frequency of chimney fires (Britain has one of the highest rates in Europe), suggest that we are insufficiently acquainted with our local chimney sweeps - or "chimney technicians" as they are now called. Depending on the kind of fuel burned in the fireplace, a chimney should be cleaned either once every three months (wood fires and stoves), once a year (oil, gas, smokeless coal) or twice a year (bituminous coal).

According to Martin Glynn of the National Association of Chimney Sweeps, whose 215-strong membership accounts for most of the sweeps operating in the UK, the main cause of chirnney problems is the build up of tar and dust on the walls of the flue, which can only be removed by the action of brushing. (There are a lot of



Martin Glynn sweeps another chimney clean before the big day arrives

cowboys who go around convincing housewives that a vacuum cleaner alone will do the trick, which is just not true," Mr Glynn says.) Sooty build-up is exacerbated by burning wet or green wood, which releases dangerous amounts of creosote and tar into the chimney,

Paul Richardson offers some advice on preparing for a seasonal visitor

If your fire won't light or smokes out your living room, the cause may be a badly-fitted chimney pot or cowl — the technical term for a device that prevents birds and other objects, alive or dead,

from falling in.
Again, the chimney sweep can help, diagnosing the problem and replacing the offending piece of roof furniture. "Good sweeps will be looking up to see what's on top of the flue before their van wheels

have stopped," Mr Glynn says.
Calling in a sweep is a far less bothersome business than you might imagine. The chimney technician at work is also a fascinating sight to see. The sweeping process normally takes between

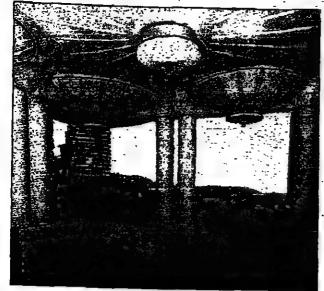
30 and 45 minutes. Modern sweeps use plenty of dust-sheets and a vacuum, which is just as well, because a chimney which has not been cleaned for three or four years may produce a sackful of soot.

The NACS is keen to rid the profession of its Mary Poppins image, but sweeping also has its entertaining side. In some quarters a sweep is still thought to bring good luck, and many of the association's members offer a wedding call-out service. Tradition dies hard, despite all the talk of safety and efficiency. In a well-worn custom, when the sweeping's done and the blackened brush emerges from the rooftops, leaving a chimney you could eat your mince-pies off, the customer is always invited outside to take a look. "The children love it." Mr Glynn says. (And so will Santa Claus.)

 The National Association of Chimney Sweeps, freephone 0800 833464.

• Martin Glynn of B.G. Wright Sweeps can be contacted on 0181-302 5468. le tiles

## Christine Wheeler views a sumptuous apartment that would make an ideal Christmas gift for a multimillionaire



An expansive, expensive view from the Monte Carlo flat

# The flat to break the bank in Monte

#### HOUSE :

Eighth floor apartment, Le Florestan, Boulevard D'Italie, Monaco ● Price: 4.5m ● Setting: This is an address to impress. Nice airport 20 mins by car, or 9 mins by helicopters. Yachts can be moored just opposite. Shopping: Your guess first please Entertainment: Lacoste for the tiny Italian cafés or haute coulture for snooty French establishments. Drive the Monaco Grand Prtx circuit every day

oil tankers, how do you show you care at Christmas? Well, you could test your mega-rich paramour's lack of materialism and sense of humour by offering only a badly wrapped lava tamp. But to avoid a festive season in gle the keys to a £4.6 million apartment taking up the eighth floor of a modern pink Carlo, where such outrageous prices barely raise a perfectly plucked eyebrow.

In Monaco, £4.6 million is middle market. Nothing-special two-bedroom flars start at El million and one penthouse, admittedly with the acreage of a small parish and a rooftop. swimming pool bigger than your local lide, is on sale for £15 million.

This is the Hello! world of. private jets and double-parked Ferraris, where public transport to Nice airport is by helicopter; where you can wear designer labels with pride and give your sable a guilt-free airing in readiness for Gstaad. The principality is 500 acres

of mainly apartment blocks, with little room for private gardens, hence your personal balcomy count is a symbol of status and depth of wallet.

SELLING

POINTS

DOUBLE

GLAZING

Tor home owners wanting to keep heat in and

noise out, the good news

is that double glazing has advanced a lot over the years.

So much so that the Prince

of Wales has converted to the

cause. All the traditional-style

houses being built at Pound-

ble glazing which uses heat-

reflective glass and softwood

rather than plastic or coloured

hardwood frames. The range

that a double-glazing com-

pany should be able to match

additions, for example, include sash windows

that not only look the part but slide vertically

and tilt inwards for easier cleaning.

Questions of taste aside, double glazing is

more than an optional decorative extra. Many

estate agents say that more and more

As most units are custom-built, double

glazing is not cheap. Some companies specify a minimum order of about £700, which would

probably buy you a new 4ft by 3ft sash window

or two plain windows of the same size. The

more you have done the cheaper it works out as

discounts come into play. But, while it may be a valuable selling point, do not necessarily expect

to recoup your money. According to a NatWest survey, 69 per cent of professional valuers said double glazing added less value than it cost.

househunters expect double glazing to be a standard fitting, even in older houses, where it might be fitted in bathrooms, for example.

of styles now available means

your existing windows. Recent

 bury, Dorset, with which the Prince is associated, have dou-

f your beloved has every the guest bathroom, in our thing, including a fleet of extravaganza has its own, extravaganza has its own huge pillared terrace with ornately carved cellings remi-niscent of lavish Moorish tents, high-society rustic furniture and giant terracotta pots. Inside, all pots are Chinese porcelain, as belits an interior with the opulence of an ambassadorial residence, with marble, silk, walnut and lemon wood. Happily the ormolu has been kept to a minimum. length of the flat would not

disgrace Kensington Palace. Leating through the bro-chure I had some misgivings about what I thought looked like flock wallpaper. Silly me. That £4.6 million guarantees reception rooms lined with the palest blue silk damask, an understated backdrop for the intricate Persian rugs and delicately inlaid furniture.

In the main bedroom (one of four, all en suite with walk-in closets the size of a studio flat) ecro, cream and gold handpainted silk matches the canopied bed and complements the two chocolate brown velvet sofas. One small child with a chocolate eclair could cause profound paranois in this property. I suspect that covering the walls with high denomination dollar bills would have been cheaper. Do silk You will not be surprised to . walls need vacuuming? Who learn that every room, except cares; disposing of dust would,

Like most who move in Monegasque circles, where more time is spent in the bath than at the stove, I did not linger in the kitchen: clinical white and chrome, every appliance known to man (or, in this town, Filpina maid) and a tiled floor you could operate on. A shiny showroom where, God forbid, a grubby textowel or rogue spot of caviare should

interior. Not to your taste? No worries; fly in one of your many friends who dabble in design to sip Pernod on the Avenue Princesse Grace and plan the remodelling. What you are after is the 640

square metres in a tiny principality where space is at a premium. Unusually for Monte Cario, where they make their money work, the wood-panelled reception area (which cannot be bought or sold) is cavernous, with one perfectly placed black leather sofa. No dried flower arrangements here. Even the material draped in the lifts to protect the walls as furniture was moved looked smarter than my drawing room curtains.

This flat's one drawback is location: only A-minus. In the property hierarchy one really ought to overlook either the harbour or Casino square, or have panoramic views of the

Prince of Wales, a convert to double glazing, at Poundbury

that from a single-paned one.

lorries or next door's barking dog.

it can be installed.

For listed houses, and some houses in

conservation areas, replacement double-glazed

windows cannot be used, but a second window

that matches the original and fits closely behind

The motivation for swapping single-paned for double thickness windows is diverse. For

some, adding fancy new windows is a socially

competitive sport, but most people put in double glazing to keep warm and cut fuel bills — heat loss from a double-glazed window is about half

Security is another important factor, because

double-glazed windows and doors now come with built-in locks and bolts. A double thickness

of glass also goes a long way to making your

house quieter, so you are less aware of passing

CLARE STEWART



bans without looking a compiete poser, the scene looked acceptable to me: paragliders catching therms; the brilliant blue beyond the rows of palms and the Sporting Club; Karl Lagerfeld's hilltop pile across

the bay. The only eyesore is the 1960s apartment block across avoic any where near the heliport where metal dragonflies bustle about with such noisy regularity it reminded one American uncomfortably of Vietnam.

o why not join Karl on the French coast where ladles of dosh will land you a very acceptable villa, large garden and a decent beach - none of which are available in Monte Carlo? Are you kidding? Six months a year residence equals zero income tax and death duties, to name but two reasons. And, since the influx of the tennis and Formula 1 boys, Monaco is shedding her dowager image of a once glittering watering hole living

off its faded reputation.

1 was also told that Monaco is relatively free of street crime, so no worries about having your Rolex stolen. Here, Lamborghinis and cus

PROPERTY NEWS

ONE OF Britain's leading

historic houses, Otley Hall in Suffolk, is for sale through

Strutt & Parker (01473 214841). The Grade I listed medieval

house is mosted and the site is

mentioned in the Domesday

book. The 11-bedroom house

includes a Great Hall, galler-

ied kitchen, l6th-century carv-ing, moulded beams and

arched doorways. Price,

■ ALMOST 30 per cent of

house sales are to first-time

buyers, the National Associ-

ation of Estate Agents reports.

The need for more space is the

reason 31 per cent of potential buyers give for moving, 21 per

cent moved to be nearer to

A THIRD of homes worth

£1-£2 million in London areas

such as Kensington and Chel-

sea are being bought by thirtysomethings. The reason,

Knight Frank says, is City of

London bouuses and in-

DOUGLAS & Gordon, of

Fulham, west London, has

registered a new house hunter

every eight minutes since

June, says Ivor Dickinson.

managing director, who has had to double his staff.

■ THE two-bedroom flat at

17 Great Stuart Street, Edin-

burgh, part of the former home of Sir Robert Lorimer

and William Henry Playfield,

two of Scotland's most fam-

ous architects, is for sale by Rettie and Co (0131-220 4160)

at £119,500-plus.

£750,000-plus.

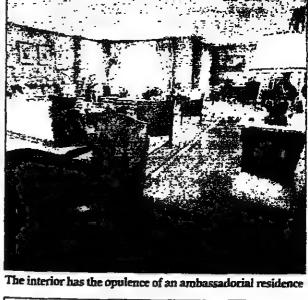
their work.

creased salaries.

parked on the litter-free streets without fear of theft or vandalism - probably not unconnected with the number of police patrolling or controlling the traffic with a very French

mon Hill? But try cruising

appear to have done nothing more dangerous than ask an off-duty speeding Schumacher who he thought he was, Da-





Left: in Monte Carlo your personal balcony count is a symbol of high status and depth of wallet. Above: the main bedroom with luxurious canopied bed

suspect it's "State your business and open the boot".

There is a village mentality: screaming round the Grand Prix hairpin near the Hotel de Paris, our driver yelled Bonjour at Phillipe and Alex. exchanged greetings with more than one Porsche, noted

restaurant. But with the Italian border 20 minutes to the left and the Côte d'Azur on the right, you can opt out into a private world. Vivre heureux. vivre caché (live happily, live hidden) is much quoted you have the money.

Agent: Patrick Dring of Knight Frank (0171-629 8171).

Dart, Barge sworp £265 per Amon Lands Property Services (777 244 991tc 0171 244 9838f

fT JOSHE WOOD Elegant mevel hee, U., 2 bed, 2 bath, recep. Lux fir hit, 83e, 9th. Very quiet. 6295 pm. Tel-0181 953 8911 T

NORTH OF THE

CAMDON NWT Lyone St. Pastry extense fronted gabind send. Gelet constant seed. 2/3 ress, heldering, 2/3 bests, bath, self. cloak, mad get. 2218,000 Scientary & Kent 0171 267 2063 specialist local agents. Victors a Co 0171 290 1692

SOUTH OF THE

BRACKEN **AVENUE, SW12** Nightingste Titmegte avan, Dibli vep, kir, 2 dible busis, 1 stagle ig back, 27k; garden approxe. E197,500 Foundated.

Mack Property Service

0781 675 6464

CITY & WEST END

MC1 1 bed garden flat 1930's hill economy 7 heating 662,500 Ausbury & Ball 0171 633 4466

DULWICH BORNIMAN MUSEUM

£170,000 for quick sale. Tel 81 2711234 or 0121 #95409.

SW3 KINGS ROAD Ground floor investment opportunity. 3 baci, inunge, bath, citi shower, life. \$137,500

OMESEARCH LONDON LTD. Lot material for the London So. 1 Specialist Search Company 017, 838 1066. Fax 838 1077

WE - East Church St - 1 had bright and spaceloss Sad Goor East with 2th Life 52 19 200 Junes & Lawto 0171 244 99121 0171 244 98222

ANDFILL SIGHT For Sale pages in possession, also insufficiel, ages Phospeth, ethics beright. Plateing latins graped in 1995 in cable mayors of least wa-

01207 542274.

LAND FOR SALE

HINDHEAD 2 MILES Fine, new traditional style Fate, new transcomment residence. Lovely setting backing N.T. Comm mirs Guidford.

S beds, 4 rec, 2 shwr mir, bath, clies, lex kit/brit na.

in convented faces buildin faces £35 per 0800 978848

TAYLOR WOODBOW Menore: Flows III 2 & 3 bed spartnershing gair comps location, bester yelmming pool, from 647,000 3 day inspection visits well For Brocksom 0181 893 2525

PLORIDA HOMES UNITED PROBATO P

COUNTRY

PROPERTY

BALEARICS

FULBAM

THOUGHT OF residential prop-erty in an investment. Buy a second proposity to hear but with stakin of up a 26% on copinal used, Pull A - 2 service position. Call now for more information 0171 386 0450

2017, Oneensgate Turzote 2 bed-ason flat with 2 reorptions & 30' patio garden. L/h £239,500 Ampa & Levis 0171 244 9911 noom flat with 2 reception 50' paths garden L/n £239, Among & Levis 0171 244 91 (f) 0171 244 9838 (f)

MORTGAGES

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

LINDRICKDALE AUT and AJ. Man be seen to be united. Described by vision

2200,00%. Phone 01509 475009 for full into and to strange a visi

uzil, Gas CH. Dble ggs. Turfed ¼ acre gdn. Nearing completion. £285,000 Housed & Daylor 01428 606020 WALES

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

Challes Installed II. Installed 10 inches in Light: und specions 4/5 bedroom bosse, 3 bedrooms (2 on/stalled, dreaming room, large leaders, disting room, Summing angelous; seath fixing prices, terrace & page.

4300 room. 0171 587 4036

Lacking for quick suits. Tuth (1972 286045 (day) or 91242 260663 (erres).

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

CHANNEL IBLANDS EY, BELL & CO. Into oldest cents spects. Frince from 265,000. No purchasing resultations for Retails subjects for EU members. Pro-colour book set - 3 victoria at, Aldersey, Tels(01481-82) 2562, Fun. 2466.

Overlooking Francesti hills.
Very surny ast on Sir Boor with 26, to befroom, 1 issues, buryon, driving as, littlew, befroom, CS, order, francisched as a proposition of the state of the st E108,000. Tel: 01628 781710. JIV & Chapting A committee & : management services, EPN Lt 0171 258 3999 (W) 046 435665 (even/white) UEL-wee

SPAIN

IBIZA Vista golf. 3 bedrooms. 170sqm, pool, terraces, b-bqc, garage, 1000sqm arden, new construction £280,000. Tel: 0034 713 1 7144/ Dax 0034 713 1 5192.

UNIQUE IN BIZA South String bjilleich, punceum view of Ithen spots, see and Formenium, 75,000 spot, divide into 5 plots of 15,000 cpm.

THE SMEM 713 1 7144/ PRESMEM 713 1 51971 LONDON RENTALS

1995 Spacious I double bed flat in modern phb flat. Close to facis Court table 2350pm waterstar 0171 170 6767. pro flat. Nod dec, dai glass bright recep, pario, ggs, porter. #250 pv. Tul-0181 PS3 8911 T GELSEZE PARK NWY Los form 2 glal bad p/o frac, but, fix lat, diel ges. 2200 ps. 0141 968 dv 1 T

Lucuy second homes at Homoumbe Macor on South Devon/Comwall border OWN USE - INVESTMENT - CGT ROLL OVER Huge discourse on end of phase three bedroom indiges or make OFF PLAN SAVINGS on NEW text sections began. At tally textised and ready to 1997 amount. PULL MANAGEMENT, INDOOR & OUTDOOR SWEMMING POOL, TENNIS, BARS, RESTAURANT, ENTERTAINMENT. PRICES 229,950 to 259,950 VERNION KNIGHT ASSOCIATES TEL: 01626 776988 FAX: 01626 770595

**GREAT FAMILY HOLIDAY LODGES** 

LONDON RENTALS

arr PHED A TERRE Themes, Next to Tate Galler each (Bankside Power Ste), Greedy opposite St Paul's attended Substitute of Steel

N12

0181 441 1581.

Wi7, 4 ige 4 ped flats, cheer with Mr. Amil now. 1700p Wishworths 0171, 370 6767

GIBRALTAR

W7, Interior designed lwr grd 3 bed flat close Gloucester 54 tube. Available now. £500pm Winkworths 0171 370 6767. 0171 351 7276. **WOODSIDE PARK** Townhouse: 4 bedrooms, 1,5 individuos. Stally, hely found individuos. Stally, hely found individuos. To stally found in a restrict found in the stall found in the st

COUNTRY RENTALS

WINCHESTER AREA (4 miles fixed) Fund fundament to good count, it beds, 2 beds, 3 loos, CPL full bit, Ags, open first, 3 reception recent utility, walled garden. Option on making it publicate.

2/750pcm. 01962 771757.

d beds, 2 receps, gazage + garden. To las £1000 p.c.m. Tellage For 02734 845757,

QUEENSWAY QUAY 1000年 1000年

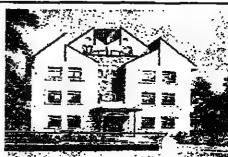
Luxury Marina Properties For Sale in Gibraltar Front line sea views over private marina to Spain and North Africa. One of the most lucurious developments

in the Southern Mediterranean. Seusonal Offer Generous discounts for January buyers: Just 18 Apartments remaining!

Major tax benefits £255,000 - £450,000 for individuals Apartments from £160,000 - £240,000

Scheduled daily flights from Gatwick & Heathro Also from Luson necs yea tment opportunities l commercial mits also available

For full details & colour brochure - call now TEL: 0181 477 5050 FAX: 0171 702 2377



CANFORD CLIFFS, POOLE, DORSET FROM £135,000. New luxury development of 14, 2/3 bed apartments. Full security, Short level walk cliff top & shops.

Tel: Andrew Key & Partners (01202) 700771 or Show Flat (01202) 706252.

ŧ,

AMANDA LOOSE

## As you prepare for the midwinter madness that grips the stores, here is our guide to what's on offer ...

# Where early birds get the best bargains

LONDON STORES

□ Debenhams 334-348 Oxford Street, WI, and branches nationwide (0171-408 4111). From Dec 27; Dec 26 in Scotland.

Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store.

☐ Femwick New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 9/6/) and branches nationwide. From Dec 27 for three weeks, Newcastle from Dec 28.

Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store. Womenswear: Nicole Farhi velvet jeans from £129 to £59: John Smedley ribbed cardigans from £75 to £39; Ben de Lisi black ribbed wool-mix jackets from £419 to £209; Admyra blonde wool/cashmere long coats from E189 to E79.

☐ Harrods 87 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, SWI (0171-730

1234). From Jan 8-Feb 1. Up to 55 per cent off items throughout the store with an extra 10 per cent off for Harrods account customers' purchases made on Jan 11. Customers spending £200 or more in a single transaction during the first four days of the sale can enter a draw to win a Volkswagen Passat. Sale items include 40 per cent off selected silver-plated Holloware. eg. punch set was £259, sale price £149; 40-50 per cent off selected Atlantis crystal; Admiral 22SL American-style fridge/freezer was £1,899, sale price £1,299: 50 per cent off Harrods luggage carts; 33 per cent off assorted throws: 33 per cent off hand-embroidered Windsor bed linen, eg, queen-size lace bedspread reduced from £125 to £85; up to 75 per cent off selected John Galliano womenswear: 40 per cent off Jil Sander; 30 per cent off Christian Lacrolx, eg, ladies' turquoise jacket was £269, sale price £189; 40 per cent off French Connection knitwear, jackets, coats and skirts: 30 per cent off selected Dolce & Gabbana; 50 per cent off Kenzo, Escada and Donna Karan; up to 50 per cent off selected toiletries including Plenitude and Crabtree & Evelyn. Menswear: 30 per cent off Calvin Klein jeans and shirts, Armani jeans and Ralph Lauren: Burberry classic trench coat was £625, now £399; Cerruti ties were £55, now £29.95; 30-50 per cent off selected childrenswear including Paul Smith. DKNY.

☐ Harvey Nichols 109-125 Knightsbridge, SW1

(0171-235 5000). From Dec 27. Up to 50 per cent off many items. During the first four days of the sale there will be an additional 10 per cent discount for Harvey Nichols' account holders on all reduced merchandise. CK jeans were £99, sale price £44.50; Ann Demeulemeester black jacket was £650, sale price £325; Versus by Gianni Versace tuxedo was £875, sale price £437.50; Georgio Armani navy suit was £695, sale price £495; women's Dolce & Gabbana mohair jacket was E780, sale price £468; Michael Kors leather trousers were E980, sale price £490; Calvin Klein

now £499; Henley large sofa was £1,090, sale price £990. Electrical: Toshiba 28in colour television was £649, now £469; JVC Mini System £499, now £379; up to 50 per cent off selected china and glass.

□ John Lewis Oxford Street, WI (0171-629 7711): Brent Cross Shopping Centre (0181-202 6535): Peter sale price £2/5; Raiph Lauren bath towels down from £22.50 to £16.50; hands towels were £12, sale price Jones, Sloane Square, SWI (0171-730 3434) and 23 stores nationwide. From Dec 28 and Dec 31; call 0171-629 7711 to find which date is correct for your nearest branch.

£450; Givenchy bias dress was

£2,410, down to £1,205; Ann

Demeulemeester bootleg trousers were £270, sale price £135; Doice &

Gabbana black handbags were

£445, sale price £222.50; Calvin

Klein black handbags were £430.

☐ House of Frager

Army & Navy, Victoria Street, SWI (0171-834 1234); Barkers,

Kensington High Street, W8

Regent Street, W1 (0171-734

WI (0171-629 8800) and stores

Dec 27. Scotland: from Dec 26. Menswear: up to one third off

(0171-937 5432): Dickins & Jones,

7070); D.H. Evans, Oxford Street,

nationwide (0171-963 2236). From

Pierre Balmain shirts; 40 per cent

off Pringle knitwear: Daniel

Hechter suit was £230, now £170;

YSL logo boxer shorts were £16,

sale price £8. Womenswear: up to 50 per cent off Marley scarfs;

dogtooth three-quarter length jack-

Up to 50 per cent off selected lines The "never knowingly undersold" policy is still in operation during the clearance period. Branches sell good quality seconds throughout the sale and well-priced lines bought by John Lewis at favourable rates under their 'special purchase' scheme with manufacturers. Philips FW 18 micro Hi-Fi systems from £329 to £199. Seconds: polyester/cotton Jonelle percale single sheets from £10.75 to £7.50; double sheets from £13 to £9.75; kingsize from £15 to £11.25. China: Mixed Vegetable tea pots from £29.50 to £17.50; Check and Dot 27in plate from £8.50 to £4.95; Johnson Brothers' Marie range breakfast cups from £4.95 to £2.95. China seconds: Blue Italian 25cm plates from £8.50 to £4.95: Toast & Marmalade teapots from £33 to £19.75; Worcester cakeplates from £14.50 to £21.75. Curtain seconds: Solitaire plain sarin 168x136cm from £49 to £25; 214x220cm from E35 to E16.50. Dress fabric seconds: 228cm cotton/polyester plain sheet-ing from £6.50 to £2.95. Duvets reduced to clear: Jonelle Novaloft polyester 12-tog single duvets from £23 to £17.50; king-size from £43 to £31; superking from £51 to £39. Reduced furnishing fabric per metre: dupion from £7.95 to £3.95; moire from £9.95 to £4.95; tapestries from £19.50 to £9.95 and semiplain fabrics from £13.50 to £7; printed Primrose Hill in grass and eggshell print from £8.95 to £4.95; Azalea print from £12.50 to £5.95: Portofino print from £13.50 to

214-220 Regent Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-734 1234). From Dec 27 for three weeks.

£6.95.

Up to 50 per cent off items throughout the store. Pewterframed mirror sconces were £55. sale price £40; five-arm steel chandeliers were £225, sale price £150; Armenian rug was £5.600, sale price £2.800; Turkish Burdur carpet was £1,950, sale price £975; Iranian kilim was £850, sale price £425: Bassano robes were £115, sale price £75; king duvets were £319, sale price £159; Peter Reed Egyptian cotton single sheets were £39. sale price E29: white goose-down pillows were £85, sale price £42.50; Missoni robes were £145, sale price 199: Laure Japy Figaree dinner plates were £30, sale price £15; Dartington burgundy glasses were £13.25, sale price £7.95; Wedgwood California dinner plates were £19.95, sale price £9.95; Lagostina cookware four-piece pan set was £169.95, sale price £84.95; Carrs silver cutlery 44-piece set was £2,799, sale price £1,399; Sabatier six-inch cook's knile was £34.95, sale price £23.95; chef's butcher's apron was £19.95, sale price £9.95: traditional roll-arm sofa was £2.395, sale price £1,195; Liberty

was £19.75, sale price £9.95; Liberty print cushions were £35, sale price £25. Womenswear: Gucci silk hipster pants were £509, sale price £254: Issey Miyake quilt coat was £1,370. sale price £685; Gaultier skirts were £395, sale price £197; Vivienne Westwood navy wool cardigan was £139, sale price £69; Romeo Gigli velvet jacket was £755, sale price 1377: Liberty orange wool

☐ Selfridges
Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629) 1234). From Dec 27. Up to 50 per cent off items throughout

Womenswear: Jasper Conran parent jacket down from £499 to £349; CK basic jeans down from £79 to £55; Polo Ralph Lauren selected lines up to 30 per cent off: Workers for Freedom shirt down from £195 to £136. Menswear: Paul Smith. Giorgio Armani Le Collezioni and Calvin Klein selected lines up to 30 per cent off: selected YSL suits down from 5325 to 5225. Childrenswear: DKNY, Moschino, Versace and Armani selected lines all have 50 per cent off. China and crystal: Dartington crystal selected seconds 40 per cent off: Aynsley tableware selected seconds 33 per cent off. PVC furnishing fabric by the metre Linens and bathshop: Ralph

Chichester, West Sussex (01243) 533103): The Strand, Torquay (01803 212754); Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells (01892 530222): Hoopers for Men. The Great Hall, Tunbridge Wells (01892 529223) and Alderley Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire (01625 525381); Allerton Road, Bradford (01274 491311); James Street, Harrogate (01423 504091). For further details freecall 0800 318216. From Dec 27-Jan 18. Up to 50 per cent off womenswear. including designer labels such as Jasper Conran, Valentino, Moschino and Jean Muir. Also special bargains in the linen and china departments.

**FASHION** 

From 30 to 50 per cent off daywear.

Ankle boots were £75, sale price £45; loafers were £69.95, sale price £44.95; mock croc knee-length boots were £59.99, sale price

☐ Betty Jackson 311 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-589 7884). From Dec 27-mid

All reductions are 50 per cent. eg. black leather three-quarter length

☐ Bhs 252-258 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-262 3288): 139 branches nationwide. From Dec 26 in Scotland, Dec 27 rest of UK. A third off selected items across all departments.

selection of items.

□ Barberry 18-22 Haymarket, SW1; 165 Regent Street, W1 (0171-930 3343). From Dec 27.

£325, sale price £185. Branches nationwide (0321 287866). From Dec 27 for four

eg, women's trenchooats were £575,

sale price £375; men's blazers were

Many lines up to a third off.

35 Brook Street, WI (0171-629 7606). From Dec 27 to early Feb. From 30 to 50 per cent reductions: Branches nationwide (0171-629 brown knee elastic boots from £199. 1244). From Dec 27. Glasgow, to £139; black leather bag from £285 Aberdeen, Kilbride, Dec 26. Up to 50 per cent discount on fashion for all the family.

Branches nationwide (0800) ☐ Chanel 26 Old Bond Street, WI (0171-Menswear: barn coat from £169 to 493 5040); 31 Sloane Street, SWI £99; 25 per cent off selected cotton shirts; half-price silk ties. Womenswear: taupe herringbone (0171-235 6631). From Jan 4-11. Minimum of 30 per cent off all ready-to-wear autumn/winter colwool jacket from £249 to £179; lection 1996 and a selection of shoes selected pure wool knitwear from £49 to £29.95. and accessories.

> ☐ Country Casuals I-5 Poland Street, WI (0171-287 5181); branches nationwide (0121-212 2405). Sale now on. Reductions up to 50 per cent. Jersey shirts were £39.95, sale price £19.95; burnt orange tweed jackets were £99.95, sale price £74.95; navy knit dresses were £65.95, sale price



Lauren selected throws 50 per cent. ens cashmere mix coats were £495.

sale price £325; short brown her-

ring bone coat with velvet collar

from £450 to £295; doe skin blazers

from £375 to £250; men's blazers

down from £295 to £195; men's double rain mac from £455 to £285.

Armundo Pollini

to £142

☐ Austin Reed

585479). From Dec 27.

Branches nationwide (0171-731

Up to 50 per cent reductions.

36 South Molton Street, W1

(0171-493 5033); 26 branches

nationwide, inquiries (0171-935

4557). From Dec 27.

2002). From Dec 21.

☐ Bertin

off; Designers Guild seconds, 30

per cent off; also 30 per cent off

selected Caroline Charles lines.

Carpets and flooring: 10 per cent off Amtico flooring: 12 per cent off Bruce Wood flooring; 65 per cent off Zermatt. Pembroke Twist and

Perfection carpets.

High Street, Bracknell,

Street, Kingston upon

Berkshire (01344 424678);

Broadway Centre, Ealing,

London W5 (0181-567 3040); Wood

Thames, southwest London (018)-546 1001); Lakeside Shopping Centre, West Thurrock, Essex

(01708 860077); The Angel Centre, Tonbridge, Kent (01732

771177); 19-23 South Street,

Worthing, West Sussex (01903 231801). General inquiries

chargecard holders, Dec 38

(0181-546 2002). From Dec 27 for

Up to 50 per cent off most lines

High Street, Yeovil, Somerset

(01935 444444). From Dec 27.

Up to 50 per cent off a wide range of

men's and women's fashions and

REGIONAL

□ Bentalls

☐ Denners



Winter can be cruel on small birds. But when you join the RSPB, we'll help by giving you this free wooden birdtable, so that your garden friends can survive these difficult months.

RSPB membership also gives you much more...like unlimited FREE entry to over 100 RSPB nature reserves... plus the awardwinning quarterly magazine BIRDS - 96 pages of fascinating articles and stunning colour photography. And by joining the RSPB you're helping wild birds to thrive,

free in their natural environment. Just fill in and send this form today, to: R5PB, FREEPOST, Sandy, Beds 5G19 2BR.

#### Join the RSPB today! Yes - I want to join the RSPB Please send me my FREE birdtable

enclose a chequer?O (payable to RSPB) for | £22 (A year's family membership for two adults at one address)
| £32 (A year's family membership for two adults at one address)
| £32 A year's family membership for two adults and all children un
| 16 at one address. Attach name and date of birth of each child. OR please deduct this sum from my Access/Visa card no: 

Cardholder's Signature

Send to The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, FREEPOST, Sandy, Beds 5G19 2BR. بر بزون هس جبری خصد الدور الربری س

☐ Hoopers

The Promenade, Cheltenham (01242 527505); North Street,

jacket was £189, sale price £94. the store.

> ☐ Amanda Wakeley 80 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-584 4009). From Jan 17.

☐ Aquascutum 100 Regent Street, W1 (0800) 282922). From Dec 27. From 30 to 50 per cent off selected lines throughout the store. Wom-

trench coat was £845, sale price £422; cashmere polo sweater was £599, sale price £298; wool mohair coat was £479, sale price £239.

23-27 South Molton Street, WI (0171-491 7833). From Dec 27 while Up to 30 per cent off a wide

55 Argyle Street. WCI (0171-833 2255). From Jan 2. Up to 30 per cent reduction on seasonal items.

🗆 Donna Karan 19 New Bond Street, WI (0171-495 3100). From Dec 27. Discounts off selected items.

□ DKNY 27 Old Bond Street, WI (0171-499 8089). From Dec 27. Discounts up to 30 per cent off autumn/winter collection.

Dorothy Perkins Branches nationwide (0171-291 2604). From Dec 26 (Scotland). Dec 27 rest of UK for four Many items at half-price.

☐ Emporio Armani 191 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-823 8818); 57-59 Long Acre, WC2 (0171-917 6882); 112a New Bond Street, WI (0171-491 8080): 84-86 King Street, Manchester M2 (0161-839 8789); 19 John Street, The Italian Centre, Glasgow GI (0141-552 2277). From Dec 27; Manchester and Glasgow branches Dec 28. Reductions from 25 per cent.



## ... from designer labels to tables. When push comes to shove, Caroline Griffiths has an eye for the best buys

☐ Episode 172 Regent Street, W1 (0171-439 3561) and branches nationwide (0171-589 4279). Sale now on. Leather jacket from £499 to £349; leather skirts from £199 to £139; 100 per cent wool coats from £299 to

☐ French Connection 249 Regent Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0171-580 2507). From Dec 27. Up to 50 per cent off selected items.

Georges Rech 181-182 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 3343). Also Fenwick. Harrods Harvey Nichols and Selfridges. From Dec 27. Up to 20 per cent off eveningwear and 50 per cent off shoes.

34-35 Old Bond Street, WI (0171-499 1862); Italian Centre, Glasgow (0141-552 6510). From Jan 8. Thirty per cent off selected stock.

🗆 Giorgio Armani 37 Sloane Street, SWI (017)-235 6232). From Dec 27. No more details at time of going to

261-271 Regent Street, W1 (0171-493 4004). Other branches: Brent Cross, Marble Arch, Kingston upon Thames, Harrow, Croydon, Watford, Wimbledon and nationwide. Inquiries: 0!71-255 2031. From Dec 23. Discounts up to 50 per cent.

Up to 50 per cent off a range of classic jackets, tops and bodies; 30 per cent off selected jumpers and

☐ Ken Lane 30 Burlington Arcade, WI (0171-499 1364) and 58 Beauchamp Place, SW3 (0171-584 1985). From Dec 27-Jan 31. Up to 50 per cent off a wide selection of items,

☐ Kingshill Mail Order For copies of the Kingshill British Designer Collections catalogue and the Diffusion catalogue (£11 or £10 for a subscription, which is refunded if you place an order) call 01494 890555, or fax 01494 866003. Sale now on.

From now, 30 per cent off all designer styles in both catalogues; from Jan 2 until Jan 20, the reductions will increase to 50 per cent and will also include a selection of items from the Christmas catalogue,

☐ Kockai 123 Kensington High Street, W8; 25 branches nationwide, inquiries 0171-937 4411. From Up to 30 per cent discount on selected items.

Lillywhites 24-36 Regent Street, SWI (0171-915 4000). Eight branches nationwide. From Dec 27. Discounts on many lines at 25-50 Up to 50 per cent off autumn/ winter collection: Josephine floral print long dress from £70 to £34.97; Aran cardigans from £60 to £34.95; beaded trim twinsets from £39.95 to £24.95; velvet evening dress from £85 to £55.

☐ M¤lberry 41-42 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4323); 185 Brompton Road, SWI (0171-225 0313); 23-25 Swinegate, York (01904 61 1055). From Dec 27-Jan 11. Up to 50 per cent off selected items.

□ Muji 26 Great Marlborough Street, WI (0171-494 1197). From Dec 27. Bedlinen: XL duvet cover was £39.95, sale price £26.

Three hundred branches nationwide. Inquiries 0116-284 9424. From Dec 27 for two

Up to 50 per cent off most items.

□ Nicole Farhi 158 New Bond Street, WI (0171-499 8368); 193 Sloane Street, SWI (0171-235 0877); 12 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-497 8713): 25-26 St Christopher's Place, WI (0171-486 3416); 27 Hampstead High Street, NW3 (0171-435) 0866). From now until mid-Jan. Up to 40 per cent reductions on

Nougat at Fenwicks, Brent Cross Shopping Centre (0181-202 8200); House of Fraser, Metro Centre, Gateshead (0191-493 2424): Binns of Middlesbrough (01642 246371): Guilty by Design, Edinburgh (0131-447 8187); Great Clothes Ltd, Leeds (0113-235 0800) and Jill Black, Barton Arcade, Manchester (0161-834

5160). From Dec 27. Up to 50 per cent of selected items including angora sweaters; shan-tung silk shirts and suits; shift dresses and belted jackets.

292 Regent Street, WI. and branches nationwide (0171-452 1000). From Dec 26 until end Jan. Up to 50 per cent off selected items. Tan suede jacket from £109.99 to £69.99; black leather jeans from £129.99 to £69.99; small leather dispatch bag from E45.99 to E22.99; red crepe suit jacket was £89.99, sale price £59.99.

☐ Osh Kosh B'Gosh 17 King's Road, SW3 (0171-730 1341). From Dec 23. Up to 50 per cent off selected

Petrick Cox 8 Symons Street, SW3 (0171-730 6504). Patrick Cox Wannabe, 129 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-730 8886). From Dec 28 until end Jan. Up to 40 per cent off men's shoes and 30 per cent off ladies; 40 per cent off diffusion lines and 60 per cent off Wannabes.

Paul Smith 40-44 Floral Street, WC2; 10 Byard Lane, Nottingham (0115-250 6712); 66-68 Bridge Street, Manchester (0161-831 9111). Inquiries 0171-379 7133. Paul Smith Jeans, 9-11 Langley Court, WC2. From Jan 10 at London branches and Nottingham. From Jan 4 at Manchester. Discounts up to 30 per cent for three weeks.

43-45 Sloane Street, SWI (0171-Up to 30 per cent off autumn/

☐ Ravel 184-188 Oxford Street, WI (0171-136 3126) and branches nationwide (0171-631 0224). Sale now on.

From 25 to 40 per cent reductions. Suede loafers with snaffle were £29.99, sale price £20; high-heeled satin sandals were £49.99, sale price £29; grey beaded satin highheeled court shoes were £39.99. sale price £29.

Red or Dead I Sloane Street, SWI (0171-235 1335). From Dec 27.

Up to 40 per cent off all stock. Suede high boots were £125, sale price £75; long print kafrans were £110. sale price £66; black suede

The Reiss Building. 114 King's Road, SW3: 116 Long Acre, WC2: 245 Regent's Street, W1; and branches in Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow (0171-225 4900). From Dec 27. Up to 50 per cent off a selection of

River Island Branches nationwide (0181-998 8822). From Dec 27. Up to 50 per cent of a selection of

☐ Russell & Bromley 24-25 New Bond Street, London WI; 41 branches nationwide. Inquiries (0171-629 6903), From Dec 20. Discounts from 30-50 per cent until

☐ The Scotch House 2 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, SWI; 84-86 Regent Street, W1: 39-41 Princes Street, Edinburgh (0171-581 2151). From Dec 27.

Up to 40 per cent off a wide selection of items. Ladies' cashmere round-neck cardigan was £195, sale price £139; men's cashmere V-neck sweater was £195, sale price £139; cashmere scarves were £45, down to £29.95.

☐ Simpson Piccadilly 203 Piccadilly, Wl. Customer inquiries (0800 288 188). From Dec 27-Jan 25.

Half-price collection includes Mondi, Amanda Wakeley, Louis Feraud, Louise Kennedy, Synonyme and Antonette. Up to 50 per cent off YSL Variation, Guy Laroche, Paul Costelloe, Fink. Simpson Collection, Beny Barclay, Pringle, Geiger, Weekend by Maxmara and Four Seasons. In addition there will be an extra 10 per cent off on Dec 27, 9-10am, and all day Dec 29.

Snow and Rock

188 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 0872); 8 Grays Inn Road, WCI (0171-831 6900); St Albans Hill, Hemel Hempstead, Herts (01442 235305); 14 Priory Queensway, Birmingham (0121-236 8280); Vale Road, Parkwood Springs, Sheffield (01)4-275 1700). Enquiries, (01932 569569). From Dec 26 or Dec 27, check branch for details. Discounts up to 30 per cent off skiwear and accessories. Goode Tiger 9103 ski poles from £79.95 to £59.95; Rollerblade Tarmac from £219.95 to £179.95; Nordica Vertech 75 men's boots from £169.95 to £99.95; Nordica Vertech 65 ladies boots from £139.95 to £89.95; Rossignol V2G skis with Saloman Q600 bindings from £214 to £114.

☐ The Ruck 487 Oxford Street, W1; 49 Regent Street, W1, and branches nationwide (0181-230 2333). From Dec 26 (London stores) and Dec 27 (nationwide) until Jan

Up to 50 per cent off selected items.

☐ Timberland 72 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-495 2139). Inquiries (0345 669988). From Dec 27. Up to 25 per cent discount.

☐ Valentino 174 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 5855); Miss Valentino, 160 New Bond Street, WI (0171-493 2698). From now until end Jan. Up to 40 per cent off womenswear and 30 per cent off menswear.

☐ Vivienne Westwood 6 Davies Street, W1 (0171-629 3757); 43 Conduit Street; W1 (0171-439 [109]; World's End, 430 6551). From early January. No details at going to press.

□ Wallis 217 Oxford Street, WL, and branches nationwide (0181-910 1333). From Dec 23. Up to 50 per cent off selected items

☐ Warehouse 19-21 Argyll Street, W1 (017)-437 7101): 75 branches nationwide, inquiries 0171-278 3491. From Dec 27. Discounts of up to half-price on party wear, tailoring and jewellery.

☐ Watches of Switzerland 16 New Bond Street, WI (0171-493 5916); branches nationwide (0171-931 7171). From Dec 27. Up to 50 per cent off a wide range of famous Swiss watches including Tag Heuer, Omega, Breitling,

Longines and Ebel. Gents bi-colour Omega bracelet watch was £995, sale price £497; Gents steel and yellow metal Breitling Chronological was £2,365, sale price £1,773.75; Ladies titanium Conquest bracelet watch was £695, sale price £347.

☐ Whistles 12-14 St Christopher's Place. W1, and branches nationwide (0171-487 4484). From Dec 27. From 25 to 50 per cent off selected

☐ Yves Saint Laurent rive gauche Femme 33 Sloane Street, SWI (0171-235 6706): 135 New Bond Street, WI 6071-493 1800). From Dec 27. Up to 40 per cent off all autumn/winter stock

**HOMES AND INTERIORS** 

☐ Bridgewater/Matthew Rice 789 Fulham Road, SW6 (017)-371 9033). From Jan 8-25, open on Jan 12 midday-4pm. 4th Floor Harvey Nichols. From Jan 27. At least 40 per cent off pottery, glass, cookware, linens, seconds and samples. Discontinued stationery lines 50 per cent off.

☐ The Conran Shop Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-589 7401), From Jan 4 for two weeks or while stocks last.

Reductions of 30 per cent on exdisplay upholstery and furniture. Generous reductions on discontinued ranges throughout the shop. Bargains in damaged goods and

C.P. Hart Newnham Terrace, Hercules Road, SEI (0171-902 1000). From Jan 18 for two weeks. Up to one third off bathroom products and accessories includes cast-iron roll-top bath for £295, reduced from £450.

Damush 3-4 Broxholme House, New King's Road, SW6 (0171-731 3553). From Jan 8. From 25 to 50 per cent off selected nightwear, gifts and home furnishings.

☐ David Mellor 4 Sloane Square, SWI (0171-730 4259). From Jan 4-18. Ten per cent discount on all standard merchandise, 20 per cent discount on most ranges of David Mellor cutlery and up to 90 per cent discount on slightly damaged or shop-soiled merchandise.

197 Stoane Street, SWI (0171-235 6957). From Dec 27 for three Up to 30 per cent off bed linen and

bathrobes, including a double duvet cover reduced from £149 to 103.90 and pilloweases redu from £33.90 to £22.90.

☐ Designers Guild Store 267 King's Road, SW3 (0171-243 7300). From Jan 11-25. Discounts on fabric, upholstery, bedlinen, walipaper, tableware and accessories.

Designers Guild Warehouse 6 Relay Road, Ariel Way off Wood Lane, W12. From Jan 18-26. (Sale hotline: 0171-243 7343.) Only fabric and wallpaper are available at the Warehouse.

□ Divertimenti 45-47 Wigmore Street, WI (0171-935 0689); 39-41 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-581 8065). From Jan 11-25.

Fifty per cent discount on Quimper traditional hand-painted Breton china and 40 per cent off Pilluvuit Whiteware. Also bargains on slight

☐ General Trading Company 144 Sloane Street, SWI (0171-730 0411); 10 Argyle Street, Bath (01225 461507); 2-4 Dyer Street, Cirencester (01285 652314). From Jan 4-25.

Reductions of up to 50 per cent on merchandise throughout shop, including San Marco range of Italian ceramics.

🗆 Graham & Green 4, 7 and 10 Elgin Crescent, WII (0171-727 4594), From Jan 3-31. Wrought-iron three-seater sofa complete with cushions reduced from £1,337 to half-price, and a Dutch pine wardrobe reduced by £300 to £465; 25 per cent off all kilims, rugs and runners; 20 per cent off Davenport china seconds. Mulberry personal accessories range has 20 per cent off.

🗀 Habitat Forty stores nationwide (0645 334433). From Dec 27. Furniture: 50 per cent saving on metal/Formica-topped folding regatta table in blue and up to 30 per cent off sofas made to order in any fabric 30 per cent off Border bedlinen and 20 per cent off Matarang 5ft metal bed. Kitchenware: 50 per cent off Fruit Garden embossed dinnerware range and 50 per cent off Somerset glassware

☐ Heal's 196 Tottenham Court Road, W1; 234 King's Road, SW3; Tunsgate, Guildford, Surrey (0171-636 1666). From Dec 27-Jan

Reductions in all departments with up to 20 per cent off most normal stock dining tables, chairs, occa-sional tables and upholstery; 30 per cent off selected cookware, canteens of cutlery and clear glass vases; 50 per cent off discontinued linens and all basketware at Tottenham Court

☐ The Holding Company 243-245 King's Road, SW3 {0171-352 1600; mail order 0171-610 9160). From Dec 27-Jan 11. Ten per cent off all chrome racking and Alpha shelving systems; 20 per cent off all canvas storage products. fabric covered boxes and children's plastic storage items.

☐ Jane Churchill 151 Sloane Street, SWI (0171-730 9947); Liberty, Regent Street, WI (0171-734 1234); 3A Christopher Place, St Albans, Hertfordshire (01727 860293); 13 Fitzroy Street, Cambridge (01223 323211), From Dec 27 in Liberty and Dec 28 in other stores. Twenty-five per cent off selected imperfect fabrics and wallpapers. 30 per cent off selected bedlinen, reductions on all upholstered furniture orders and up to 50 per cent off selected decorative accessories, ceramics. lighting, lampshades, glassware and gift items.

☐ Jerrys Home Store 163 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-581 0909); 57 Heath Street, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-794 8622); The Bentall Centre, Kingston upon Thames. southwest London (0181-549 5393): Home on Four, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SWI (0171-245 625]). From Dec 27 (Dec 26 in Kingston), Smart Buys start on Jan 8 until end Feb. Fifty per cent off selected items including linen throws from £75 to £37.50 and one third off other items such as Signum Swedish stainless steel cutlery and selected kitchen

☐ The Monogrammed Linen

Shop 168 Walton Street, SW3 (017)-589 4033) and Harvey Nichols. From Jan 2 (Dec 27 in Harvey Nichols) until end Jan. Cotton bedlinen reduced by 20 per cent including Peter Reed, Oliver DesForges, French Linen Com-pany and Jesuruin. Assorted de-signs of towels reduced by 20 per cent plus others.

☐ Paperchase 213 Tottenham Court Road, W1, plus 11 other shops nationwide; for nearest branch: 0171-580 8496. From Dec 27 to end

One third off selected Christmas stock. Knockdown prices on some summer furniture including chairs, candlesticks, vases, stacking boxes, rugs. Large seagrass woven rug reduced to £5.

I The Fier Stores nationwide; for nearest branch: 0171-637 7001. From Dec

Price reductions range from 20 to 50 per cent, including Shaker dining chair in green reduced from £75 to £59, Savannah wicker furniture 20 per cent off and Ticking Stripe blue and white porcelain 25 per cent off.

☐ Purves & Purves 80-81 and 83 Tottenham Court Road, WI (0171-590 8223). From Dec 28-Jan 22. Up to 40 per cent off ex-display furniture, 10 per cent off any single item over £500 and 50 per cent off discontinued lines of accessories.

SCP Furniture Ltd 135-139 Curtain Road, EC2 (0171-739 1869). From Jan 4-Feb 1. Up to 50 per cent discounts on floor samples; discounts of up to 15 per cent on all items ordered during

Simon Horn Furniture Ltd 117-121 Wandsworth Bridge Road, SW6 (0171-731 1279). From Jan 2-31.

Up to 35 per cent off selected beds and 10 per cent off all orders placed during sale; one third off 78 per cent mohair blankets in three colourways; ash four-poster beds from £2,820 to £1,990 and metal four posters from £2,352 to £1,452.

Smallbone of Devices 105-109 Fulham Road, SW3 (0]71-581 9989). From Dec 28-Jan

Substantial reductions on bespoke kitchens, bedroom and bathroom

☐ The Source 26-40 Kensington High Street. W8 (0171-938 2626); Lakeside Retail Park. West Thurrock, Essex (01708 890253): 10 Harbour Parade, Southampton (01703 336141). From Dec 27.

Up to 50 per cent off selected lines. Egyptian cotton duvet set from £19.95 to £9.95; Ashma bedspread from £35.95 to £17.95; double patchwork quilts were £79.95, sale price £39.95; single patchwork quilts were £69.95, sale price £34.95; bath towels were £10.95, sale price £5.95; Horrocks bath sheets were £10.50, sale price £8.40; Horrocks hand towels were £3.50, sale price £2.80; washed durries were £89.95, sale price £44.95; ribbed cushions were £8.95, sale price £4.45; gingham kitchen aprons were £5.75, sale price £2.85.

☐ White House 51 New Bond Street, WI (0171-629 3521). Dec 29 preview, sale Jan

2 for two weeks. Fifteen per cent off all stock in all departments: 20 per cent off women's fashions with some merchandise reduced by up to 50 per cent.

• Information correct at time of going to press. Dates and reduc-tions may change at short notice. Please check with specific shops before making a special trip.

● Additional research by Alex Wijeratne



☐ Hennes 179 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-823 1014); 155 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8856). From Jan

Selected menswear and womenswear at sale prices.

☐ Jaeger 200-206 Regent Street, WI (0171-200 4000), 100 stores nationwide, general inquiries (0171-200 4211). From Dec 27. Discounts from 17-55 per cent. Camel cashmere stole from £169 to £99; suede gloves with zebra cuffs from £49 to £24.50; Jaeger London wool mix coat from £350 to £249; Jaeger London brown belted jacket from £320 to £219; brown wide leg trouser from £140 to £89.

26 Sloane Street, SWI (0171-235 5470): 23 Old Bond Street, WI (0171-629 3713): 28 Brook Street, WI (0171-629 6077): 124 Draycott Avenue, SW3 (0171-225 0364); 77 Fulham Road, SW3, and general inquiries (0171-823 9500). From

Reductions 30 per cent or more.

☐ Karen Millen Branches nationwide (01622 664032). From Dec 26.

Dec 27.

☐ Marks & Spencer Marble Arch, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-935 7954): 286 branches nationwide, inquiries 0171-935 4422. From Dec 27. Moorgate branch not included. End of season clearance.

☐ Maxmara 32 Sloane Street, SWI (0171-235 7941); 153 New Bond Street, WI (0171-491 4748). From Jan 4. Up to 20-40 per cent off Maxmara and Sportmax. Grey woollen/ cashmere suit from £413 to £249; fake fur coat from £768 to £459; violet devoré dress from £705 to £489; cream boot cut trousers from £98 to £79.

☐ Miss Selfridge Branches nationwide: 0181-910 1359. From Dec 27. Up to 55 per cent off selected jackets, ponteroma jacket was £55. sale price £25; £10 off tailored trousers; half-price selected coloured suede trousers, now £40; 40 per cent off selected coloured suede safari-style jackets; velour side-split skirts were £35, sale price £15; half-

parkas were £40, sale price £20. Branches nationwide (0171-313 3000). From Dec 27.

price quilted jackets, fur collar



MANCHESTER SHOP BY TRAM

# Holiday tips for all those party animals

James Allcock, The Times vet, offers

valuable advice for the festive season

hen it comes to Christmas, most animals agree with Scrooge the sooner it's over, the better, and they can get back to their daily routine.

It is not just pets who have a hard time: pigeons living on crumbs falling from commuters' sand-wiches go hungry when main line stations are deserted. Urban foxes find less to eat when takeaways are closed and office and factory cats have to make do with an extra few saucers of milk to see them over the holiday. Fortunate school pets will go home with one of the pupils. Those left in classrooms will be lonely, and cold if the heating is set low to save fuel.

Farm animals do better, Many are indoors at this time of year and routine feeding and watering goes on as usual. Dairy cows have to be milked whether it is Christmas or not, providing the milk you will be drinking next weekend.

My son's ewes started lambing last week. He's on 24 hour watch, I'm on stand-by for emergency sheep midwifery duty.

But what about pets? Try to keep to their regular timetable. Getting up four hours later than normal puts an excessive strain on any dog's bladder. He needs his daily walk — don't miss out because it's Christmas. But if he is getting on in years and usually goes a gentle mile or so to the pub. don't take him for a four-hour hike — you'll both be stiff and sore on Boxing Day.

If your pet's supper time is 5pm. don't make it wait until you have finished dinner and done the washing-up. Tiny bits of ham or turkey, a tablespoon of cream and a couple of chocolate drops won't hurt any dog or cat. But keep it at that. Don't leave chocolates on the sofa overnight or a jug of cream within cat-lapping distance. A pound of chocolates can be a lethal dose for a medium-sized dog and if the cat drinks too much cream there will be a nasty mess to clear up the next morning.

There are plenty of safety requirements about children's toys, Dogs are mainly at risk. They'll chew and swallow plastics and they have been operated on to recover the squeak from the toy mouse given to the cat. Small, hard rubber bails can be dangerous. An overexcited dog jumps to catch it, mouth wide open and the ball is small enough to lodge at the back of the throat and kill the dog. An inch larger than a tennis ball is the minimum safe size.

Lively parties may also pose problems. Make sure there's a quiet spot so your pet can retire

from the fray. If your budgie lives anywhere near the kitchen, beware of non-stick pans when you forget to take them off the heat and they boil dry. Fumes from these pans have killed a number of birds. Fish are not totally safe if the party turns into a rave. An unwanted vodka or cigarette end dropped into an aquarium makes the water uninhabitable. Close-fitting tank tops are essential. And when the party is over, check that no one has switched off the heater or filter.

If pet-loving but petless children are guests, do not let dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, gerbils or rats be overwhelmed with embraces. Don't worry too much about hamsters. Every one I have handled has made his feelings crystal clear by biting the hand that holds it.

Dogs and cats belonging to elderly aunts may not appreciate visiting it would be kind to suggest the pets in her life are tucked away before the children descend.

One post-Christmas question that crops up every year is what to do with the turkey/chicken/goose/ duck carcass. It is linked with the worry about chicken bones piercing a dog's intestines. I do not believe this has ever happened. There is no mention of it in reputable veterinary literature. My dogs have had chicken bones for at least 40 years without trouble.

oxes, rural and urban, eat plenty of chicken bones cooked or killed and eaten raw. Their intestines are indistinguishable from a dog's. I'm not recommending poultry bones for dogs, however, and certainly don't give leftover turkey skin -explosive diarrhoea often follows.

A better destination for Christmas leftovers is food for wild birds. The fatty bits can be a life saver in cold weather. The wire mesh hanging basket that is filled with fuchsias, lobelia and petunias in summer can do all-year-round duty, swinging from a tree, holding poultry remains and bones of any other sort. But, once a wild-bird kept open until late spring. If food supplies fail, some of the birds saved in January will die before Valentine's Day. Bird tables, window ledge feeders or bags of peanuts must be kept topped up.

Christmas charity should include your vet. Not money or even alcohol, but consideration. There will be someone on duty if a real emergency occurs, but don't ask for a repeat prescription at lunchtime on Christmas Day, when he is already booked to perform delicate surgery on the roast turkey.



James Allcock with his grandson James, aged three, and Finty the Staffordshire bull terrier. Dogs need extra care at Christmas



Tiny has become inseparable from his friend

#### ADOPT ME

BRUNO is a 13-year-old black labrador with a grey muzzle. Tiny is a two-yearwhite and tan Jack who has become Both dogs have a good temperament, are in good health and need to be rehomed together. As Bruno is an older dog, he has been placed under the National Canine Defence League's fostering scheme, which means that any vet fees will be met by the NCDL Contact the NCDL Rescue Centre, 60 Teeshan Road, Ballymena, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT43 5PN

the brain which are supposed-

Abnormal electrical im-

pulses in the brain can cause

physical ailments, they say, so

correct the impulses and you

correct the ailment. Each de-

vice is programmed following

a scan of the sufferer's

brainwaves. Empulse is par-ticularly used for those suffer-

ing from the headaches from

hell and that means women -

four times as many women as

men get migraines. Many doctors believe that migraines

are caused when the brain's

alpha and theta waves drop to

I saw Mr Bartlett at his

Reading clinic. He trained as

an osteopath and still practises,

but his technological bent

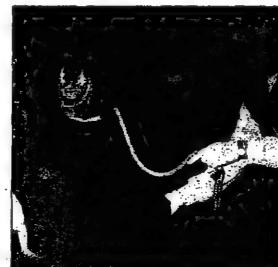
meant that Empulse intrigued

him. He spent an initial 16 hours learning how to use the

equipment and takes part in

below certain levels.

ly deficient.



All Bruno's vet's bills will be met by the charity

#### A VET WRITE

Our grandson, Charles, Q who is nearly ten, wants a pet rat. He is fascinated by a pet rat. He is taskinated to them. Do you think he is old enough to have one for Christmas? His parents are unenthusiastic, but resigned.

13/0/11

there's 11

A Charles is just about old enough, but Christmas is the worst possible time to introduce a new pet. Too many other things are going on. Buy him a book about rat keeping and enrol him as a member of the National Fancy Rat Society. Juvenile membership costs £6 and the membership co-ordinator is Davida Krill, 14 Clayhall House, Somers Close, Reigate, Surrey RHZ 9FB.

You could also give him an IOU for two rats not to be cashed until April 1997 and only if he has learnt all about rat keeping. The Easter holidays, when summer follows. are a much better time to start any new animal venture.

Q Lucky, our cat, was hit by a car six weeks ago. and now his tail is paralysed and just drags behind. He has no other injuries so perhaps he was lucky. Our vet says there is no hope of the tail recovering and it should be amputated. Why? Lucky does not worry about his non-working tail.

A Lucky does not worry about his paralysed tail there. So he won't realise if it catches alight when he gets too close to an electric fire and it could become trapped in a door without him knowing about it.

Less spectacularly, the paralysed tail will drag on the ground, get damaged, dirty and in time become gangrenous. It is much better to operate now, on a healthy cat, than have an emergency later when (un)Lucky has devel-oped blood poisoning.

When I was very young - I have been a senior citizen for more than ten years — I remember my grandfather's dogs always had a lump of sulphur in their water bowl. He swore by it and I never knew any of his dogs to be ill. I thought I would try it for my cross-bred spaniel but no one seems to have heard of it.

A I remember rock sulphur but don't believe it ever did any good — and no harm either. These lumps of sulphur are totally insoluble in water and the piece your grandfather bought could have remained in the water bowl until today, without

changing shape or size. The dogs cannot get anything from it. Sulphur was, and still is, an effective treatment for mange, but that is form and applied to the coat. Specialist laboratory chemical supplies might stock rock sulphur, but it is hardly worth the trouble of searching.

JAMES ALLCOCK ● Readers should write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London

# Stylish Suede Jacket



Made in a quality soft suede, our fabulous fully lined ladies jacket is stylishly designed, making it an essential for everyone's wardrobe this Winter. Available in a choice of chocolate brown or black, it's a fashion classic that will never go out of style. Exceptionally priced at only £59.95 inc. p&p.

- Full front button opening with durable metal buttoris.
- Adjustable two-button trim on cuffs and side tabs.
- Deep, slanted side pockets.
- Inside pocket with suede trim. Full, lightly quilted lining to match
- colour of jacket. ■ Length, 7lcm (28") rape to hem.
- Sizes S/M (10/12), M/L (14/16) and L/XL (18/20).

Jacket 100% suede, lining 50% polyester/ 50% acetate, quilting 100% polyester. Specialist dry clean only.

# The Times Suede Jacket Offer

## Migraine? I've had a brainwave

ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING

Peter Bartlett qualifies as an electronics wizard. When I asked for a copy of his CV, he tapped into his personal organiser and out it came, which is unsurprising given that he uses a space-age elec-tronic therapy known as Empulse and waxes eloquent about technology as the interface between conventional and

alternative medicine. Empulse is a thing, not a therapy: watch-sized, white, plastic and lithium battery-operated, it looks like a powderpuff case. It can be worn in a pocket, clipped to clothes, strapped like a watch or hung around your neck - though this will entail you giving constant explanations. At night you slip it under your pillow.

It was invented a decade ago by 37-year-old Steven Walpole, a former BT and IBM electronic engineer, who at first named the device Medigen and spent 12 years refining it. He had suffered searing migraines for years, which worsened after a car crash. He claims the attacks have all but ended since he started using

the renamed Empulse. The practice is simple — you wear the gadget. The theory is equally simple when summarised, but devilishly complicated when you get into talk of "delta" and "theta" frequencies and the mechanisms of

how the thing works. All activity in the body is controlled by brain waves variously called alpha, beta, delta, theta and other waves. The device produces a selection of these waves to promote, for example, relaxation thanks to alpha waves, or pain control thanks to theta waves. In theory. Empulse pumps out minute electromagnetic impulses every 12.7 seconds that boost the electrical impulses in



RACHEL KELLY

patients in the past year. Treatment began with a headaches, then he slipped a Brain Frequency Analyser, which is rather like a slimline pair of head-phones, over my head for three minutes to analyse my brain frequencies. No, it is not connected to any direct currents. The result looks like a graph from a

continuous training every two-

A migraine sufferer learns about the Empulse action

left-hand column, and frequency along the bottom di-vided into "delta", "theta", "alpha" and "beta": the frequency bands claimed to be linked to the physiological

months. He has treated 50 maths lesson: power up the

conditions which Empulse can relieve. Delta frequencies are associated with the subconscious and unconscious states, and deficiencies would be shown by insomnia. Theta frequencies are linked to creative thought; alpha frequencies with control of muscles. Mr Bartlett noticed that Ihad a couple of "theta" and alpha" frequencies which

game was to programme my Empulse to correct them. My particular frequency boosters would help to reduce muscle tension and stress.

were lower than average, indi-

cating muscular stress. The

which in turn were causing my headaches, he said. The trouble is I have no idea if it is

#### Empulse

What it is a gadget that emits electronic signals which rebalance the body's electronic

Advantages: trials suggest that it works for migraine sufferers.

not for the scatty; you must wear the gadget.

■ Disadvantages:

Cost: E40 for first consultation, £160 for the

working or not. True, I have had fewer headaches recently but then I never had the mindsplitting migraines which are a better litmus test of Empulse's efficacy. Therapists recommend that you wear Empulse for three months for the best results, with a consultation to adapt the frequencies after six weeks depending on your symptoms.

The manufacturers say inals last year found that 82 per cent of 265 migraine sufferers who responded to a survey reported a significant improvement after using the gadget. Almost a third said they felt perfectly well for the first time in years.

r George Lewith. from the Centre for the Study of Complementary Medicine in Southampton, describes the research as promising but not definitive. A second trial at the Koestler Foundation in London, supervised by the Queen's Physician, Dr Ronald Davey, in 1993 tested the response of 67 patients. The majority reported fewer migraine attacks.

It seems pricey: the first onehour consultation costs E40: each month's trial purchase costs £15 and the subsequent re-analysis and reset consultation costs £20. If you go ahead and buy the gadget, it costs £160, discounted by £10 for each month of paid trial Mr Bartlett counters, however, that this is nothing compared to the cost of drugs for migraine-sufferers.

Peter Bartlett is on 01734 344203. Medical Devices and Instrumentation (MDI) at Cobbs Yard, St Nicholas Street. Diss, Norfolk IP22 3LB (01379 644234) manufactures Empulse and keeps a list of all UK



# Blonde and pouting nanny wanted

hen the other half dra-matically disappears, with manifestly no idea of returning, priority No I is a childminder. I toy with the idea of an au pair. With my working hours it would have a distinct advantage. Antonia and Joanna give it the thumbs down.

"Where would she sleep?" Antonia demands. "I want my own room, like all my friends." Jo looks at me soulfully. "Do we really have to have someone living here?" "Most au pairs only come here to get boyliriends anyway," adds Antonia pointedly. "Eve Abrams says theirs doesn't lift a finger."

She might try and boss us around when you're not here," murmurs to, "Okay, okay," I recoil. Antonia is not going to

not ready for a mother substitute. So how do you set about getting a childminder? Are

there agencies for this sort of thing? What sort of people are childminders? Is it a registered profession or are we talking about exploited teenage and OAP labour? My neighbours are short of ideas; even the usually together Eve can only suggest "Do what I did and put an ad in the paper".

It sounds fearfully hit and miss. Nevertheless: Childminder wanted for two daughters, 8 and 10, of beleaguered male. Help with homework as important as house-work. Hours 4-ish to 11-ish, but sometimes later. I thought it rather witty. The girl in the small ads department of the local Twickbudge on the territorial issue. Jo's enham paper read it without

PERSONAL

amusement. Antonia and Jo are chuffed about being advertised in the paper. They have some idea it confers celebrity status on them. I've told them the paper doesn't come out until tomorrow, but they're in and out of the newsagents all day - for sweets.

It works! The phone hasn't stopped ringing. After the first half-dozen calls I felt a small glow of complacency. Another dozen and that feeling gives way to panic. Is there more to this than meets the eye? Might there be child molesters among this lot? I feel you ought to have had more training in this kind of thing.

tising your vulnerabil-ities. I had the most unnerving phone call tonight A man. Male,

27. Had just come out of the Army after three-and-a-half years. (Why, may I ask? I mean, no one serves for three-and-a-half years, do they?) He had had some "prob-lems" but they were behind him now. (Well, that's a relief!) He had seen the light and was training for the priesthood. A definite case of don't call us, we'll call you.

Antonia wonders why I burst into a hysterical cackle when she asks me if "anyone interesting" has called. My interview technique lacks finesse, but I'm trying to learn. People are throwing themselves at me from all quarters. One is from way out by Heathrow. I

here from that distance? Her: By bus. Me: But the service is terrible. Her: I'll try to manage. Try to?

That's not much help to me. This is depressing. I've had 33 calls. Not one raises a flicker of a right feeling in me. Most of them seem barely able to cope with their own lives, let alone anyone else's.

Then, at last! A candidate I feel confidence in. Mrs Harris, 50, bustling, bright and friendly. Stacks of references. Good ones, too, from posh addresses on Richmond Hill. Mustn't jump the gun. I will wait 24 hours before making my decision. But just as I am about to lift the phone to give Mrs Harris the all-clear, another candidate ents herself.

1. Mrs Harris has to come from Kew. Mandy lives just round the

corner. I'd worry about Mrs H getting home at nights.

2. Mrs H can cook, but rather oldfashioned, ie lots of bangers and beans. Mandy's mentioned taglia-telle and stuffed peppers. 3. Mrs H has good references.

Mandy has references. 4. Mrs H didn't actually say anything about doing housework whereas Mandy volunteered "if you get in a jam". Young people do have a more, well, flexible spirit. 5. Mrs H turned up five minutes early for her interview, Mandy an hour late.

6. Mrs H has the experience. But isn't there some advantage for practically pubescent girls in having someone like a mate to confide in and talk fashion to?

7. Mrs H is nearly 60. Mandy is 19. blonde, blue-eyed and has a Brigitte Bardot pout. A tough decision? Who am I trying to kid?

PETER DAVIES

# There's no escape, just play the game

Be it charades or the vicar's cat-

games come into

their own at

Christmas, says Jill Parkin

here's something odd about the British Christmas. During the breaks between eating, we're often stuck in a room with several people we haven't seen for 364 days. We must have stacks to talk about. What do we do? We start playing games madly, thus avoiding any real conversation for another year.

I married into a family of games players, a shock for someone brought up with only an incomplete set of Kan-U-Go cards. (Mind you, it made me into a passable Scrabble player, which came in handy during those long dark evenings of courting.)

I am notorious among my in-laws for having to have Snap explained to me twice. So when I came back home one Christmas from a four-day assignment in post-revolutionary Romania, their annual orgy had quite slipped my mind. All I wanted was a gin. and a loving hand to help me out of the waxed jacket 1'd been all but sleeping in. But dly ever drink, and their hands are usually folding bits of paper. It was "Hi; Jil!" and back to their substitute for real social intercourse. So I went, via Belgrade and the family flour game, smoothly from Ceausescu to murder in the

dark. Not much difference. But like the Boxing Day walk and the pounds of nuts you wouldn't dream of buying normally, games — board games, word games, movingabout-the-room games — are an inevitable part of Christmas. You can't escape. There are people out there, and in the sitting room with you, who

plan this months ahead A friend of mine, a radio news editor, cuts out headlines all year round, just for her new year party game. She actually practises the flour game the day before her family do. She turns the flour out of a bowl and stands in her kitchen, carefully cutting slices off the flour dome without letting the chocolate topple off.



Board games, word games and moving about the room games — they are an inevitable part of a British Christmas. There will be people in the sitting room with you who planned this ritual months ahead

You never know if the games your family plays are normal. Everyone plays charades and consequences. But what about up-Jenkins, and the vicar's cat? Mine only by

marriage, you understand. Those oldies who are always telling us "in my day we used to make our own entertainment" should get down and play up-lenkins. Real DIY fun, that is. It makes flicking the remote seem like an intellectual challenge.

Still, a young games hating Cambridge don I met at a wedding admitted: "You can have a good subversive time with that word game where you have to guess which is the right meaning. I once did mooli, and gave them the shaped vegetable, a Hindu word for the female sex organ as an object of veneration, and the Irish festival of the cow. They all went for the sex

games players are. A lot of them are people who went to children's parties and never got the parcel. Winning matters so much to them that even games of complete chance or laughable skill can become a triumph to them."

ne has to be charitsble to the games players, then. This is their one chance to shine. Anyway they've got us, and plenty of pencils and paper to go round.

So we might as well find the gin and begin. "The vicar's cat is an aberrant cat . . ' Everything from the Queen's speechto the salmo-

nella in the turkey is combining to make us comatose over Christmas. Something to wake us up is no bad thing. Let's play up and play their blessed games for one day in 365. After all, if you had that organ. I think that tells you a much to talk about, you'd see each other more often, about how repressed

S ome advice from an old party book: "Let some of the games be noisy ones, some of them atroclously silly, and it will be just as well if you get to know a few that are sedate."

ATROCIOUSLY SILLY GAMES

Here are some games that would not come amiss at a Fawlty Towers party. ■ Flour Game. Tightly pack flour in a bowl and turn out on to a plate, placing a chocolate on top. Players take it in turns to slice a piece of the flour mountain away without letting it collapse. The loser gets their face pushed into the flour - and the chocolate by way of compensation. ■ The Vicar's Cat. A round-the-room

game. Everyone has to find an adjective to fit the feline. You start with "a" ("The vicar's cat is an artful cat . . angry cat . . . absent-minded cat" and so on), proceeding through the alphabet to "z". It's obviously more difficult if you're the last to go, so the starting point moves on a person with each letter. If you can't think of a new Word vou're put

Up-Jenkins. A find-the-coin game for two teams facing each other across a table. A coin is passed about by one

#### FUN AND GAMES FOR ALL THE FAMILY

team under the table and is finally concealed in one player's hand. The other team gives orders, trying to hear or see the coin. "Up-Jenkins" means the coin team must raise their hands at 90 degrees to the table with fingertips resting on it. "Smash" means bring your palms down with a bang. Hands are eliminated until the opposing team chooses one and all the players see whether it's the right one.

Here is another silly game, adapted from my ancient book, Games for your

Party, by Bernard Stanley.

In Who Are You? the organiser pins a well-known name on the back of each guest. You then move around the room asking questions of each other to find out who you are. Nothing too direct. Not "Am I the Duchess of York?" but "Do I bank with Hello! magazine?" After a while the organiser calls each name and you find out if whether you have guessed right. As Mr Stanley says: "You must exercise discretion in the names you foist on your friends or your friends may become your foes."

Needles is a sexist but funny garne

involving male and female pairs. Needles, thread, buttons and small pieces of fabric are laid out on a table at the end of the room. The women have to run and get the items; the men have to thread the needle and sew on the button; the women have to run back with the sewing. First button on wins.

Most board games are for small numbers of players. Here are a few for a reasonable-sized party, which already has Monopoly and Trivial Pursuit. ■ The Manager claims to be the first ever fantasy football board game for up to six players, who are cast as managers of Premiership football clubs. They play with Banco de

Venables currency (Tel himself created

the game), buying and selling players. The winner is the one with the most cash at the end (£19.99, Waddingtons). Hazard features Chaucer's nilgrims and the idea is to be the first to get around the board from medieval Southwark to Canterbury. Up to six can play and you learn about the Canterbury Tales as you go. Minimum

age seven (£15.95, Past Times). NOISY GAMES

■ Poison Spot. You need space and not much furniture. Everyone stands in a ring hand in hand, music is turned on and the ring careers around. Two handkerchiefs are spread on the floor and anyone touching one is out. You re allowed to nudge other people on to the poison spots. As numbers thin out. more spots are added. In the case of aggressive play, stop the music and everyone must stand still.

If you want something more modern. Waterstones suggests: A Book of Surrealist Games by Alastair Brotchic (Shambhala, £7.99) for language and alternative card games; The Penguin Book of Games by Sarah Toynbee (£4.99), with more than 100 games for grown-ups; The Big Family Games Book by Jane Molineaux (Michael O'Mara, £12.99), six family games and pieces; The Mammoth Book of Word Games by Peter Newby (Robinson Publishing, E5.99), games from cipher-text to word squares. J.P. text to word squares.

Ruth Gledhill on a celebrity Christmas carol service that had a serious message behind the fun and laughter

## Why Wally made it the best Christmas ever



SURPRISING numbers of young people among the elderly and blind, some with Harrods shopping bags and others with friendly guide dogs, squeezed between the

pews or, in the case of one particularly large, hairy alsatian, flowed over into the aisle, for our celebrity Christmas carol service in the heart of the City of London. An enormous, sparkling Christmas tree dominated the front of the church, and it began to feel as though Christmas had truly begun as the choir processed up the aisle, robed choirgirls patting the eager alsatian as they clambered over it to reach their seats on the

stage, singing throughout. The Anglican clergyman taking the service. Dr Michael Peel, opened with a bidding prayer: "My friends, as we prepare ourselves to hear the message of angels, so let us go in heart and mind to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass and the babe lying in a manger.

We were in the City Temple, the only continuing Free Church within the City, and with a history dating to the 1600s. Its ministers have included Thomas Goodwin, chaplain to Oliver Cromwell and, besides its regular congregation, it is home to the Christian Life Bible College. For our carol service, various stars of radio, television and the verses from Isaiah.



Jenny Seagrove, Clive Anderson and Honor Blackman read prayers

stage had volunteered to do the readings to benefit the charities Help the Aged and Action for Blind People. Our first reading was by Clive Anderson, the chat-show host, a man blessed with the rare power to generate laughter, no matter what he says. I only just controlled the urge to giggle uncontrollably as he launched into two rather serious

The next reading, by the actress Jenny Seagrove, calmed us down and Honor Blackman personified the spirit of Christmases Past as she read from Norman Longmate's How We Lived Then, with his tale of the Sheffield girl in the Second World War, who wrote to Santa Claus for "any little thing you can spare", or the Surrey girl who left instructions for Santa Claus on the

#### AT YOUR SERVICE

🖈 A five-star guide 🛊

MINISTER: The Rev Dr David Hilborn ARCHITECTURE: Although built in 1958 after its predecessor on the site was bombed in 1941, this church feels much older. Its vast and stunning Interior gives a Godly impression of austere magnificence. \*\*\*

MUSIC: Admirable descents from London university's church choir, who sang popular carols in between most of the readings \*\*\*

LITURGY: Time-honoured Christmas format of nine lessons and carols. \*\*\* SPIRITUAL HIGH: Joyful and triumphant. \*\*\*

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Sandwiches, quiches and hot mince pies, washed down with alcohol-free mulled fruit juice. \*\*\*

living room table, directing him to the bomb shelter in the cellar where she was sleeping on Christmas Eve. After that, Frank Windsor of Z-Cars fame shot straight from the hip with Matthew chapter one, his voice resounding through the temple. All the readings were followed by music or a carol and our treat this time was O Little Town of Bethlehem by the blind guitarist David James. Nerys

Hughes talked us gently through Luke chapter two, and then it was back to Mr Anderson for Dina Donohue's Trouble at the Inn. 2 story which, fortunately, was this time meant to be funny.

Anderson described a nativity play, where the part of the innkeeper was played by a man called Wally. who would today be classed as suffering from a "learning disability". When the time came to turn Mary and Joseph away, he could not remember his lines. The prompter urged him to turn the Holy family away but he just stood there, his mouth open, eyes filling with tears, staring at Mary. Finally, he cried out: "Don't go, Joseph. Bring Mary back. You can have my room." As Mr Anderson explained, some people in the town thought the play had been ruined. Others, however, considered Wally had made it the best Christmas the town

had ever seen. Dr Peel went on to lead us in prayer. "May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverence of the wise men, the joy of the angels and the peace of the Christ-child be God's gift to you this Christmas time." He blessed us all before sending us into a night where the shops had finally closed and the true spirit of Christmas began to be felt in the present.

• City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, London ECIA 2DE.

### \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* Imagine their delight Imagine all the lovely things you could buy with National Garden Gift Tokens. So why not give someone else the same pleasure this Christmas! National Garden Gift Tokens come in a range of values, are easy to post and can be bought and exchanged at most Garden Centres, Garden Shops and Nurseries right across the UK. So treat them to the gift that grows. NATIONAL GARDEN GOT TOKENS Horienfural Trades Association sablehed (88). Thede, Berkshm

# The garden from under the sea



Orchids and cowslips at Folkestone

Chalk spoil from

the Channel Tunnel

has become a

naturalist's delight

amphire Hoe is one Eurotunnel asset that must bring undiluted joy to the company's accountants. Ecologically, it is all profit: about 6.5 million cubic yards of chalk marl, the spoil from the English half of the Channel Tunnel excavations, sown with wild-

Planting on the 185-acre site at Dover includes rock samphire seeded from descendants of the plants growing on adjacent cliffs which a botanically correct Shakespeare includes in Lear:

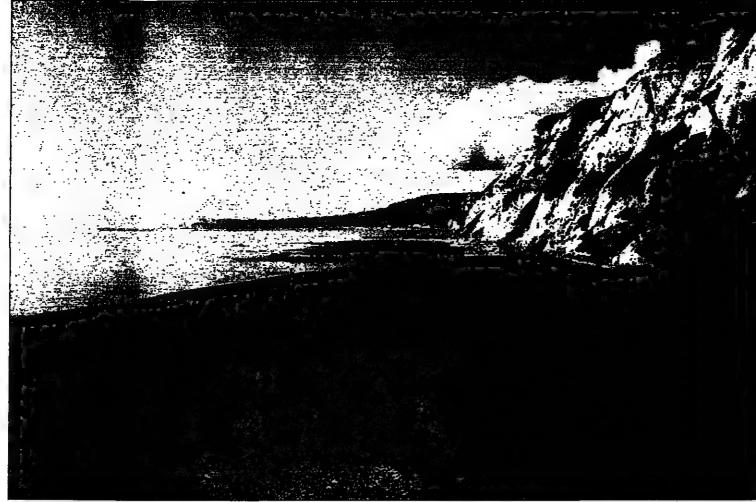
Act IV. Scene VI. Stage directions: The country near Dover. Edgar (to Gloster):

The crows and choughs that wing the midway air Show scarce so gross as beetles:

haif way down Hangs one that gathers samphire...

The chalk spoil has been contoured to mimic the form of nearby Folke-sione Warren. Although it has not seen the sun for millions of years. naturalists expect this most virginal of seed bases in time to support many of the traditional plant species of chalk downland, the dominant habitat here.

Botanists are delighted with last summer's yield. The hoe already supports bird's-foot trefoil, pink sainfoin and yellow kidney vetch, some of the distinct flora in landscape form virtually wiped off the face of Britain by postwar agricultural changes. More than 70 per cent of chalk down-



Above the White Cliffs of Dover, a new 185-acre downland site called Samphire Hoe has been created from the Channel Tunnel diggings

land has been lost to agriculture in the past 50 years, and much of the rest is under threat through lack of

Samphire Hoe is the boldest of the attempts at habitat creation by the White Cliffs Countryside Project, a joint initiative to improve one of the most conspicuous, and most transited, landscapes in Britain. (It includes the White Cliffs of Dover and, increasingly many people's first and last view of England, Cherry Garden Hill, that sweep of cattle-dotted scarp above the entrance to the tunnel.)

The White Cliffs Countryside Project launched in 1989 in the early days of the Channel Tunnel construction, is one of the most potent environmental alliances of its type in Britain. Funding partners include Eurotunnel, which owns large areas around the tunnel mouth, Railtrack, the Countryside Commission, Kent. Shepway and Dover councils, the Kent Wildlife Trust and landowners.

The project manages three large areas of chalk downland: the Western Heights above the White Cliffs of Dover, Folkestone Warren, and Folkestone Downs, which runs serenely above the bewildering matrix of railway lines, roads, overbridges and gantries of the tunnel terminal.

The scheme has already scored some notable successes in restoring areas of downland which had become overgrown, but at least were never ploughed, seeded or treated with chemicals and fertiliser and turned over to intensive agriculture. Because of the lack of traditional

management, much of this land was derelict, rank and coarse, invaded with scrub," says the project officer, Nick Johannsen. "There were problems of fly-tipping and litter. Without intervention, a huge area of species-rich grassland would have been lost." In all, project workers have cleared

about 700 acres of ancient chalk grassland of scrub. The chief agent of repair is cattle. "We have been grazing some downs for seven years and have seen spectacular improvement," Mr Johannsen says. Downs which were knee-high in coarse grass have been transformed to a fine turi,

with many dormant species growing again, such as cowslips, harebells and orchids, in turn supporting up to 30 species of butterfly.

The land is being grazed by animals belonging to farm-ers who receive payments to underwrite what would otherwise be loss-making farming activi-ties under the Government's Countryside Stewardship scheme. (A condition of the scheme is public access to the downs and, reflecting the project's cross-Channel links, signs and leaflets are bilingual.)

An indicator of success is the Adonis Blue butterfly, which needs closely grazed turf. It has staged a sensational comeback. Once it was common on the downs - there are records of Victorian lepidopterists brushing up clouds of the butterflies on the tops. "Ten years ago, they were here in dozens; now it's up to hundreds. I look forward to thousands," Mr Johannsen says.

As well as creating new and rescuing old downland, the project is

recreating the habitat on about 43 acres of land which has been turned over to arable farming. Round Hill, part of Eurotunnel's large estate just above the first section of the tunnel, has been weaned off its agri-chemical addiction and sown with kidney vetch, upright broom and oxeye daisy.

Initial results are encouraging, though Mr Johannsen says that the restoration process will be slow on such sites. "Plants are spreading in from adjoining downland, but there may still only be 20 to 30 species, compared to several hundred on the down that was never ploughed.

"The process is not fully understood. We are still learning, and however much money we spend, we cannot recreate the intricacy of the flora on the ancient downs.

#### GARETH HUW DAVIES

• Samphire Hoe is not yet open to the public, though guided walks have been arranged. The next is on Dec 29, 2pm. White Cliffs Countryside Project, 6 Cambridge Terrace, Dover, Kent CT16 UT (01304 241806).

### FEATHER REPORT

## Partridge myth is off its perch

the song is the rarest of all his or her 12 gifts. Drummers drum, geese lay and lords leap - but partridges never settle in pear trees. In fact, they hardly ever perch in trees at all. They may occasionally land on a fence, but essentially

they are ground birds. They even prefer to run away rather than fly when they are frightened, though if they do whirr up into the air they fly very well, coasting over hedges and dodging bales of straw until they settle on the earth again.

There are two species out in the fields of Britain: the common or grey partridge and the red-legged partridge or "Frenchman", an introduced species. The latter is now probably more common, but the old British partridge is still plentiful. When one puts its head up above the corn or long grass to look around, it can instantly be identified by its

bright orange face.

Most of the grey partridges never go far from the farmland where they began life, so there are probably families of them that go back into the mists of time. In the winter, they move around in flocks or "coveys", You can hear their call a long way off — a sound like metal being scraped. If you follow it up you can usually find several of them

lurking by a hedge.

An attractive habit of these winter coveys is the way they

THE "true-love's" present for the first day of Christmas in foxes, when there is no corn to hide in, so they squat down at dusk in a circle — perhaps 12 or 15 birds — all facing outwards. That way they have a better chance of detecting an enemy approaching.

and the state of the state of the state of the state of

Not many people have seen these night circles, but sometimes one can find a ring of their droppings showing where they have been.

On windy nights they are less likely to roost in this way, because they prefer to face into a strong wind, like most roosting birds. That keeps their feathers unruffled — and it is their feathers that keep

PARTRIDGES start pairing in late January or February. It is a fine public spectacle. You hear their metallic calls and find 20 or 30 of them out together in an open field probably two or three coveys joining up. They run about in front of each other, chase and fight, and take little notice of a discreet observer.

Then they start leaving the field in couples. Love and spring are on their way.

#### DERWENT MAY

What's about: Birders — look out for wintering green sandpipers around reservoirs and gravel pits and along open ditches. Twitchers — desert wheatear, Cardiff: Baonapart gull, Land's End; hoopoe, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minutes cheap rate, 50p at all



Partridges rarely perch up in the trees - even pear trees

SHELVIN

TRESTLES
DESKS ETC

reconditioned.

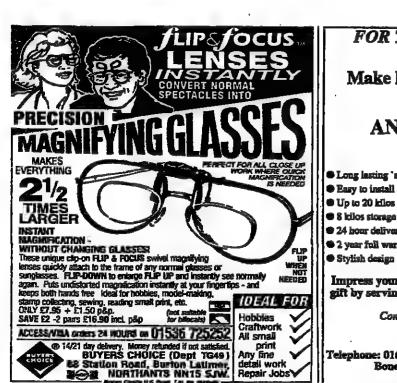
TO ADVERTISE CALL: CALL: 0171 680 6860 FAX: 0171 481 9313

### **SHOPAROUND**

TO ADVERTISE FAX: 0171 481 9313 Idance w

lariar or turile sen

think I'll have be



#### FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING

Make life enjoyable by giving the perfect Xmas gift

AN AUTOMATIC ICE MACHINE

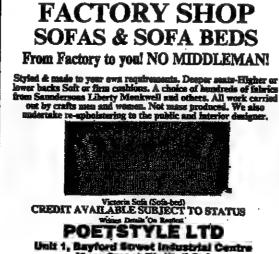
Long lasting 'sparkling' ica cubes Easy to install as counter top or under worktop ● Up to 20 kilos production in 24 hours

 8 kilos storage capacity ● 24 hour delivery 2 year full warrant

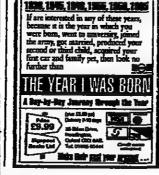
Impress your partner and your guests with this unique gift by serving the best drinks available on the rocks all the year round. Contact us today for further information

CONSORT Telephone: 01635 33993

ne: 01635 33993 Fax: 01635 41733 Bone Lane, Newbury, Berks. RG14 5SD Visa & Access Payments.



Unit 1, Bayford Street Industrial Centre Mare Street (Rr Well St.) Hackney, London, ES 35E, Tet 0181 833 0915





MORIARTI'S

Traditional green Loden coats available in Ladies, Gents and Childs Telephone 01768 899111 Fax 01768 899222 r write for your free colour brochure BORN for



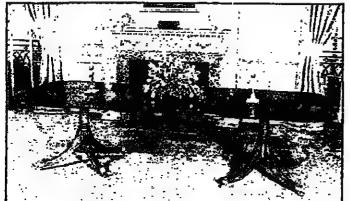
BEST EVER JANUARY STARTS FRIDAY 27th DECEMBER The worlds largest display of fine Engish solid Mahogany

Walnut Yew & Birds Eye Maple antique replica furniture made by master craftsmen to a standard unsurpassed this century Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm BRITISH ANTIQUE REPLICAS NIG SCHOOL CLOSE, QUEEN ELIZABETH AVE., BURGESS HILL BETWEEN GATERIX & BROWNERS WEST SUSSEX RH15 9RX

\_Tel: 01444 245577

- 177 Fr

Recreating the period. Perfectly.



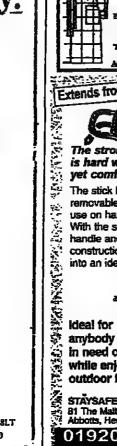
At William Tillman our craftsmen lovingly create modern masterpieces that reproduce the finest examples of English 18th and 19th century furniture to perfection. Call now and let us introduce you to quality that cannot be surpassed anywhere.

When only perfection is good enough.

Substantial discounts currently available on many items, including chairs. Please ask for details.

30 St james's Street, London SW1A 1HB

14-24 Crouch Lane, Borauch Green, Cast TN15 SLT Telephone: 0171 839 2500 Fax: 0171 930 8106 Telephone: C1732 883275 Fax: 01732 884439





G-D-S

60% Week - Jack about a lactes - Philip Colours to

AMY SEEL - ART LENGTH Price Seen C75



LODEN

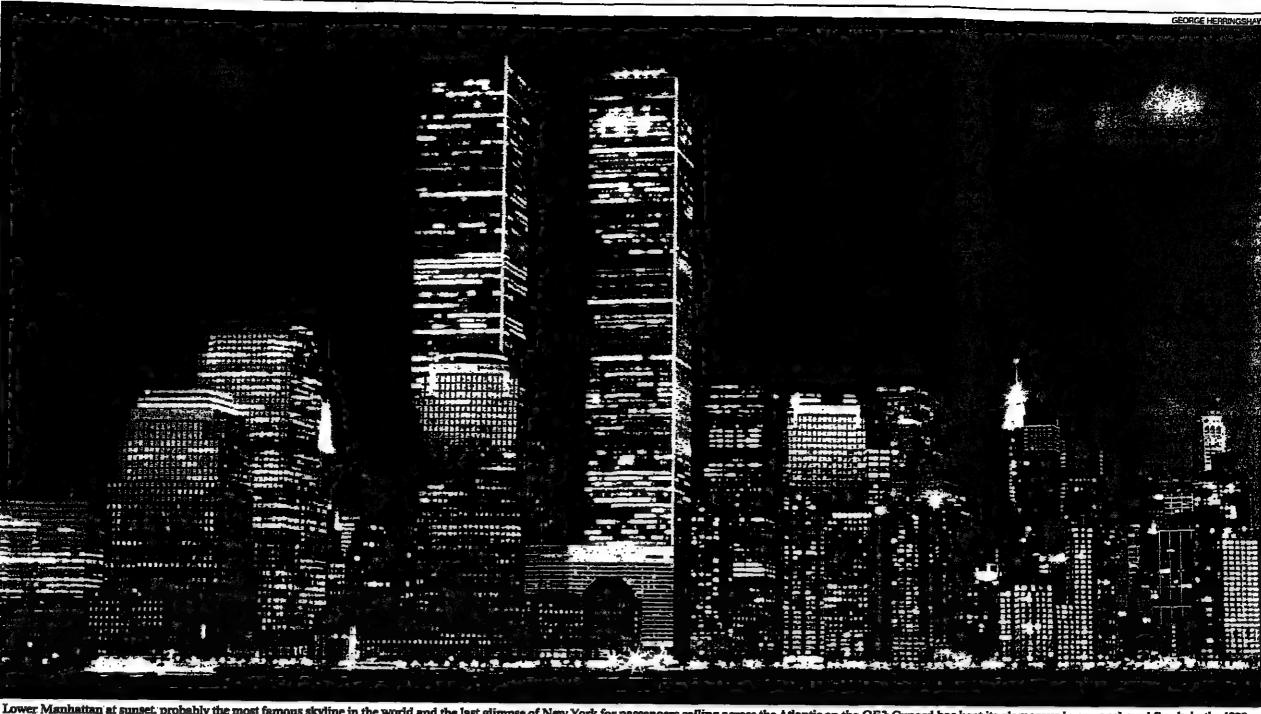


Luxury route to Oriental pleasures S.E. Asia - 15

# Irave

Coconuts for the club-class castaways Fiji - 16





Lower Manhattan at sunset, probably the most famous skyline in the world and the last glimpse of New York for passengers sailing across the Atlantic on the QE2; Cunard has kept its glamorous image anchored firmly in the 1930s

# A dance with Dad to the music of time

Thile the Manhattan skyline shrank into the pale September sky, Dad was playing golf. I watched his club arcing through the green cage beyond the. lifeboats. Twenty-five years ago I worked as his caddy for half-a-

crown (125p). I had brought my father with me on a short assignment - two days in New York then back on the QE2. It was a treat I wanted to give him; he deserved it, and as a self-employed building contractor he could easily have time off. "Why do you want to take me?" he had blurted out in delight when I surprised him with the tickets.

It was the first time we had spent more than two days together since I

was a teenager, and the first time we had been alone for a week in our lives. "Alone?" We were joined on the QE2 by 1,000 crew members and 800 other passengers. In every corner of the ship a lurking Cunard employee inquired after our health, offered us food or took our photograph in soft focus — sometimes all

three at once. The inconvenient absence of scenery is an occupational hazard of cruising across the Atlantic. To make up for it. Cunard goes overboard, so to speak, on the entertainment: lectures, quiz shows, bingo, films, shops, tabletennis championships, church and synagogue services, talent shows, aerobics classes, scrabble contests

and meetings of the Masonic

Two views of the First Lady of the sea - a daughter treating her foxtrotting father to a trip, and a wide-eyed first-timer

brethren. It even has the nerve to include a weight-control seminar. Dressing up, sipping cocktails and whirling round the dance floor are de rigueur and "gentlemen hosts" are employed to foxtrot with single

women passengers.
In the face of change throughout the leisure sector, Cunard has kept its Noël Coward-and-Royalty image anchored in the 1930s. "It's like arriving in little old England as soon as you step off the pier in New York," a retired attorney from Kansas told me as I trod on his foot

Dad and I shared a cabin. It was very comfortable, though it did remind me why I had left home. In 1842 Dickens and his wife shared a cabin during a transatlantic crossing on Cunard's Britannia, and he wrote in his diary: "It is as close to heil as I can imagine." It took 14 days then, and milk was provided by a cow on deck. She was stowed in a hammock as it was the only

way they could keep her upright. What I liked best on the QE2 was lying on the sundeck and letting the steward wrap me in a navy serge blanket like a horse. Like all his colleagues, this youth wore a badge bearing his name. And like us, David came from Bristol. The sundeck under his aegis had the whiff of a resort out of season, lumpy shapes covered in green tarpaulins stowed along the edges

Most of the time Dad lay next to me on the sundeck and David ministered to us with tea and crustless ham sandwiches. Many hours unravelled as Dad and David discussed Bristol City FC, the pair of them expressing such vehement rebuttals of the manag-

of the smooth, grey boards.

er's selection that I wondered why they did not ring him up on the satellite phone to tell him where he was going wrong.

Bad weather eventually drove us off the sundeck. On the third evening - half-way - crepes suzettes had to be removed from the dinner menu. "Too much swell for a naked flame," our waiter said.

Stormy seas, coupled with the irritating absence of scenery, meant we were incluctably drawn to the on-board human landscape. Most of the other passengers were American, their faces mulberried by drink and their minds blanched by the eternal peace of Kansas. They smiled at us benignly, the happy image of parent and child.

There were things I had planned

to say to Dad in the leisurely moments of our cruise but of course, I did not.

I am glad we shared the experience. People usually write things about their fathers after they have lost them, and the literature recites a litary of regret — for things un-said, debts unpaid, love constrained. There is never enough time in the endless cycle of parenthood.

Watching Dad capering around the dance floor of the QE2 as if he were a teenager. I wondered if this was the first stage in the inevitable reversal of roles as children become parents and parents come to denend on them.

Sara Wheeler ■ The author was a guest of Cunard.

QE2 FACT FILE

Cunard (01703 716500) can arrange flights from the UK, three nights in a hotel in New York

(room only, per person

sharing) and a 6-night

return trip on the QE2

(including all meals and

on-board entertainment

■ The Travel Bookshop

recommends: Gayot's

NYC Restaurants and

Gourmet Shops (Gault

Millaц £9, ISBN 1881

06620 7). City Guide

New York by Vanessa

Letts (Cadogan, £10.99, ISBN 0 947754 46 6).

to Southampton

from £995.

(0171-229 5260)

## Caviar or turtle soup? I think I'll have both

he QE2's maiden voyage in 1967 was described by some British commentators as even more exciting than the Apollo space rocket lift-off. Standing on the bridge hundreds of miles from land, surrounded by the unforgiving Atlantic, I could understand the exagger-

Despite running aground in 1995, and much publicised problems with exploding lavatories on the 1994 world cruise, the ageing First Lady of the sea retains a unique aura of glamour.

The elegant liner makes the slow trip from Southampton to New York up to 24 times a year. It may take five days as opposed to a mere eight hours in a jet. But no view from an aeroplane, 35,000ft above the waves, matches the magic of that first glimpse of the ap-proaching Manhattan skyline from the cabin porthole.

Hundreds of passengers rushed on deck at 6am to watch the Statue of Liberty. Ellis Island, the Staten Island ferry and the United Nations building slip past in slow motion.

Down below, hundreds more passengers were fast asleep in their cabins. Presumably they were the ones who have made the trip two or three times a year for the past 20 years. The ship is addictive.

When I walked up the gangway in Southampton five days earlier I had felt like the 14-year-old boy in 1975 who boarded a plane for the first time with his parents when Spanish package holidays were a new phenomenon.

However, my excitement

the breathless reaction of the American holidaymakers in their vast floral shirts, jostling to be first on board and posing for photographs with anyone who was wearing a uniform.

I fought, with limited suc-cess, with the floral shirts, weighed down by cine equip-ment which would have put a BBC outside broadcast crew to shame, for a bird's-eye view on deck to watch land disappear. A flotilla of small boats escorted us out to sea, their whistles blasting; proud to be

in the same wake as Cunard's Stepping inside was like going back to an era long before package holidays and supersonic flights. The decor is more Dickens than Conran. Thick velvet drapes, deep carpets, and dozens of rarely seen

Elizabeth. Few pictures remain of her daughters in law. Cunard has attracted a more diverse age group on board. Shampoos and sets are no longer the most soughtafter service in the hairdressing salon. The average age of a passenger is below 58. In the hallroom, competition is still intense among wealthy wid-

ows for the favours of eligible

portraits of a young Queen

male dancing partners. But the golden oldies aerobics class remains one of the most popular organised activities. There were lectures. videos, an enormous library, magic shows for the children. sponge painting and a talk on ivor Novello. Max Bygraves, 74, who topped the entertainment bill, was a big success. And yes, he sang: "You need hands."

This is a liner which exudes was nothing compared with such confidence that the inmentary on the sinking of the Titanic

Stress is non-existent. The only ordeals, having dressed for dinner, is the exhaustive round of cocktail parties, which are a hotbed of ship gossip. Invitations are highly prized for champagne in Cap-tain Ronald Warwick's board-

The toughest choice of the week is at the dining table. Russian caviar or turtle soup as a starter? Here you can have both. There is something almost decadent about dining under buge windows over-looking the battleship-grey Atlantic, the gloom only occasionally illuminated by the far-off lights of a passing

7 hite-coated and goldbraided waiters hover discreetly around the dining table. Leatherbound menus are perched between seemingly endless rows of silver cutlery and crystal glass. In the strict caste system, the Queen's Grill is for the elite. I was in the Grill, second class by comparison, but it still felt like the Ritz.

Dining can be hazardous. One English couple protested to their maitre d' about the monosyllabic German couple sitting opposite at breakfast. They were too late. The Germans had launched a pre-emptive strike, complained and changed their table first.

wiches were popular with the

Americans. After two cocktail

parties and a sumptous ban-

Meals run endlessly into each other with afternoon tea and cakes served each day. Cucumber and salmon sand-

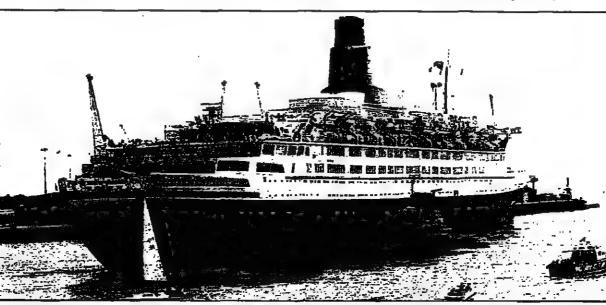
quet, a floor show and a brief but unprofitable spell in the casino, it is to the Chart Room for a nightcap. Or maybe to the Yacht Club, which appears to go on all night. Some people are having a midnight swim. Others are ambling on deck. Exercise can consist of a daily trip around the shopping

mall, by taking the plunge in one of three swimming pools, or by jogging round the deck. The latter has to be negotiated with care. The ship is 13 decks high and about 320 yards

The Atlantic passed by in a blur of black tie and cockrail dresses, and impeccable service with 33lb of caviar, a thousand bottles of champagne and 500lb of strawberries all disappearing on the

The first glimpse of New York might have been exciting. But the most memorable part of the trip was now over.

ANDREW PIERCE • The author travelled courtesy of Cunard.



Despite problems at the start of her 1994 world cruise, the ageing QE2 retains an aura of glamour and grandeur

A Special Announcement

## A LUXURY WEEK on the NILE from £395

able to make a special offer for just five departures of seven nights on board the 5-star MS Diamond. Availability is restricted to 30 seats so early booking is essential to avoid disappointment. Acruise along the Nile on a deluxe vessel, not too

large, and with like-minded travellers, has got to be one of the better ways of escaping the uncertain British weather. This cruising arrangement represents extraordinary value since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions. It you are looking for a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation, then this is surely an opportunity that should not

THE MS DIAMOND

Recently built the Diamond is 11 metres wide and 71.5 metres long with a draft of no more than 90 cms. Modern conveniences include air-conditioning.aone-sittingspacious restaurant awater purification system, laundry, TVs and private shower rooms and WC with each comfortable cabin, which also feature tinted picture windows. For the energetic there is a swimming pool exercise equipement and a jacuzzi.



Cruise between Luxor and Aswan on the 5-star MS Diamond

— 7 nights from £395.00 — ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Ply from Catwick to Luxor and join the MS Dia-mond for the 7-night cruise. Visit the West Bank, the Valley of the Kings, Luxor Temple and the great Temple of Karnak. Sail to Edfu and Kom Ombo visiting their temples, and cruise on to Aswan with full sightseeing programme including the High Dam and the Temple of Philae (optional excursion by coach to Abu Simbel £75) DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES 1997 Mondays - per person in twin Jan 6, 13, 20, 27, 3395 - Feb 3, 5395

Upper decks £95 - Single cabin £150 Includes air travel, Iransiers, 7 nights mitte VS Diamord, tull board, ecursions, local representative. Not included insurance, operace, amort tay, visa, lups, botte the Company reserves the right to upgrade to a superior vessel if necessary. Price are subject to change, All bookings are subject to our Canditions of Booking, available on request.

Special Note: a small number of places are also vailable on Christmas and New Year departures. Please telephone for prices and vessel details. 0171-6161000

VOYAGESJULESVEPNE 21 Dorset Square, London NVV 1 60G Travelinamelers Lal. ACTA 1861 ATOL SKR Interpret https://www.eje.co.pic unitscare open in telephone reservations weeks from and a rescharted Strain "year For per band call uniter hours are Camtio Spracechida couth.

المكذا عن الماصل

# Golden road to Samarkand

he hotel manager smiled pruriently, wagged her finger and declared: "You are not married." We were in her Office for the Foreigners, a bizarre blend of Soviet rococo, and having been caught trying to check in now faced this moment of truth. "You need my permission": she spoke with relish. Passports were pawed, visas studied and the how long, what, when and where of our stay mulled over until, finally, an obliging welcoming smile.

Such are the baffling ways of Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan. To visit this country is to peel back the layers of an onion of perplexing shape and pungency. Nominally Islamic, steadfastly communist in all but name, it knows with pride it is the soul of Central Asia and is slowly trying to forge a new identity. Meanwhile, dollars will do nicely.

And hence the debate over matrimony. The moral high ground of two singles earns more than one double and it's not only tourist apparatchiks who are in the know. Just Uzbekistan, the soul of central Asia,

will startle

outside the foyer and at almost all hours of the day, a posse of older people were touting cutprice rooms in their homes. This nascent capitalism is just

one strand in the unravelling

of Central Asia.

In town, workers at the Kukeldash Madrasa, the Islamic school, welcomed us in a courtyard lined with small rooms. Sprawled on diwans behind the main portico, they poured us green tea and we regarded one another with shameless curiosity. Tourists being thin on the ground, they

wanted news and views.

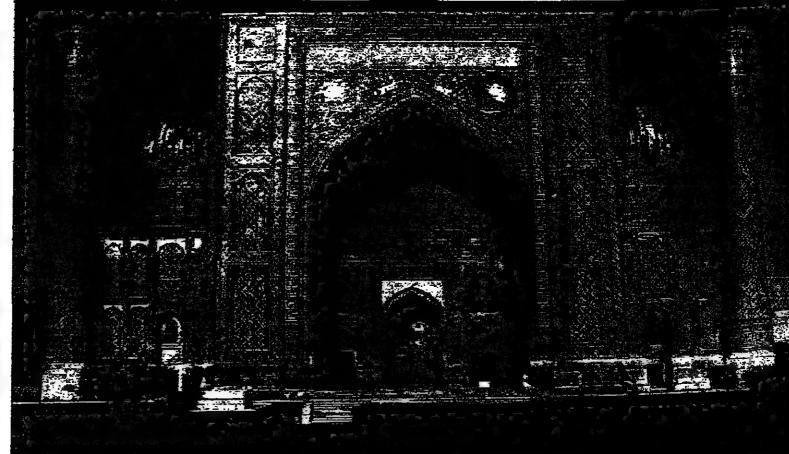
A youth translated. What did I think of Mike Tyson? News of the great one's conversion to Islam had penetrated even here. Only tact

prevented an honest answer.
"We are not Iran," said one
man later, others nodding in
agreement, "and we don't
want to be like them."

Tashkent is full of surprises. There are Snickers. Mars Bars and Uzbek champagne at £2 a bottle. Prostitutes are so sleek and discreet it would be harsh to call them whores. There are trams and a metro with themed, stylised stations; the roads are smooth, wide and shady with trees. It is the oddest bit of west in the east. "Native drums", heard by master-spy Sir Fitzroy Maclean in the 1930s, which "throbbed rhythmically in the warm Eastern-smelling darkness", are elusive.

But there is opera — at the Alisher Navoi Opera and Ballet Theatre, a neo-classical Stalinist mishmash. At 50p a ticket, it hosts the cheapest opera anywhere yet audiences are pitiful, as much an indication of changing mores as the number of Russians returning to the motherland,

We headed west on the Golden Road to Samarkand. Its monuments to empire



Registan Square in Samarkand is Uzbekistan's Taj Mahal, a spectacular ensemble of minarets from the early 1400s to the mid-17th century

building and vanity have left many a writer struggling to evoke the dazding patterns of blue, green, yellow and turquoise glaze shimmering on domes, minarets and arched facades. Registan Square is

the country's Taj Mahal, a spectacular ensemble of minarets from the early 1400s to the mid-17th century and on a drop-jaw scale. There is mosaic everywhere, endless motifs that even break Islam's prohi-

bition on depicting living things. So far it has survived conflict, neglect, scavengers and earthquakes. Rather than endure communism, it was tended and restored. But the rigours of independence may

prove to be another acid test. The Registan is but a postscript to the reign of mighty Tameriane who almost conquered half the world and held most of it in fear. He made Samarkand his capital and his tomb, retrieved from the clutches of collapse, stands in a revitalised compound. Beneath its ribbed dome lie six

one to the man himself.

For another small "fee", a nervous guard took us down to the crypt to steal a glimpse at the real thing by the dim glow of builts. Not bad for the killer of 17 million people.

cenotaphs, a cracked green

The real centre of infamy, though, on a smaller more lucid scale was Bukhara. Once called "the Noble", described as "one of the dirtiest and most unhealthy places in Asia". At our Bukhara hotel, the receptionist saw I was British, smiled and drawing his finger under his neck said something like "Stot" and "Coley" — a reference to Stoddart and Conolly, the 19th century British Army officers.

At the beight of the "Great

At the height of the "Great Game" when Britain and Russia were jostling for power, influence and ultimately the security of India, Stoddart had come as political agent. Faced with a tyrannical Emir and illversed in the opaqueness of Central Asian etiquette and diplomacy, he managed to offend rather than befriend. Conolly the rescuer was wrongiouted too, and after months in jall the pair were executed in the square before the citadel.

We sat in the square and munched through shashlyk, grilled skewered mutton, and fresh lepeshka, a flat unleavened bread washed down with steaming tea. Traffic was slight and we wondered where everyone was. This odd emptiness, akin to an old Awngers episode, seemed with few exceptions endemic to Bukhara.

Walking to the city's historic core, it was hard to credit an old proverb "as wide awake as a broker of Bukhara". Hundreds of years ago it was a wealthy, thriving caravan town bridging China and west Asia. Now I saw a struggling market where from tables people peddled Turkish chocolates, detergents and vodka, the goods of the moment.

if Bukhars was a byword for the nobility of Islam, then remote Khiva was that of duplicity and treachery. The West's first serious approach was dispatched by Peter the Great in 1717. His envoy and 4,000 men were warmly welcomed, split up supposedly for

comfort, and then murdered. It was another 156 years before the last khanate succumbed to the grip of Russia. From Bukhara it's an eight-

From Bukhara it's an eighthour bus trip through the
Kizyl-Kum desert. Towns
cursed with spidery gantries
and cranes loomed out of the
dusk and disappeared into
darkness; the lands which
government forgot. Under a
brilliant moon we crossed the
sheeny River Oxus, that most
unknown of rivers.

As we arrived, swarmed around and a friendly mob hemmed us in. Olya, a dark, handsome woman wondered if we might like to share hers. Once in we succumbed to the arms of hospitality as she brought us home to sister Sonya; grand, old and tur-baned. With hearts of gold they feted us for two days with all the food Uzbek restaurants have never known. Resting on carpeted diwan in their trellised courtyard, we watched Sonya knock back a vodka and listened to Olya explain her rag trade business trips to Delhi.

hiva is something of a museum, the most intact of any Silk Route oasis city, still surrounded by high clay walls and gates, packed with mausolea, minarets and one glorious palace. We entered through the west gate and a man I took to be a guide approached. Sensing my levity, he announced he was KGB and wanted to see our "papers". Such an old-fashioned word, I thought, redolent of Buchan and espionage and quite enough to ensure our undivided attention.

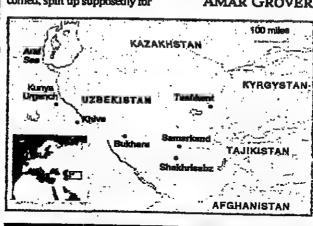
ided attention.
Leaving behind gaggles of local tourists and a motley crew of hawkers, we wandered through the near-deserted historic heart of Khiva. Each corner of its narrow streets evokes forgotten lives, hopes and miseries. Little of it is more than 200 years old but all reeks of antiquity.

all reeks of antiquity.

At the Tash Khauli Palace we saw the most vintage morsel of Central Asian mien.

At a mausoleum dedicated to a lith century poet, wrestler and doctor, a veiled woman was paying her respects. The veil was unusual enough. But in leaving she retreated facing the tomb and murmuring prayers. Other women looked on in amazement and even embarrassment. Uzbekistan the onion had been peeled, cut and quartered. I was enthralled but only a little wiser.

AMAR GROVER



#### UZBEKISTAN FACT FILE

■ Steppes East (01285 810267) offers a ten-day Treasures of Uzbekistan tour from £1,415; Ezodus (0181-675 5550) has a 15-day Samarkand and the Silk Road tour at £1,395; and Regent Holidays (0117-921 1711) can arrange personalised itineraries from about £1,200 for two weeks. All tours include return flights from London.

In Group tourists with pre-booked accommodation are preferred. Independent travel is possible but getting a visa may be awkward. The Embassy of Uzbekistan (0171-229 7679) is at 421 Holland Park, London Wil ZRP. The Uzbekistan Tourist Office (0171-935 1899) at 13 Marylebone Lane, London Wil SFE can also arrange visits.

■ Flights start at £525 return with Turkish Airlines (Condor

■ Flights start at £525 return with Turkish Airlines (Condor Travel, 0171-373 8477). Uzbekistan Airways (67-72 Wigmore St. London Wl, 0171-935 4775) has direct flights to Tashkent from £575. Fares may increase from March 25 next year.

■ Travel within the country is economical and reasonably efficient. Hotels usually charge westerners at least triple the local room rate and many could do with refurbishment.

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: Traveller's Companion to Central Asia by Kathleen Hopkirk (John Murray, £12.99. ISBN 0 71955 321 0). Goodnight, Mr Lenin by Tiziano Terzani (Picador, £5.99, ISBN 0 33032 962 6).

Travel insurance. 

Bureau de change.

Money back price promise.

Competitive rates.

Ski & motor cover options.

Same rate buy back.

Travelling abroad? Make one of over 18,500 post offices your first port of call. You'll find peace of mind, since with our travel insurance policies valid claims are settled within five working days. Details are available over the counter or the phone on 0800 387 858 seven days a week. You'll also find more than 25 currencies, a variety in American Express Travellers Cheques, bought and sold at only 1% commission. You'd be ail over the place without us.





jie like a

## SE Asia: Graham Lord is pampered from head to toe at the Oriental Hotel and takes a luxury route to the high life

# Live like a king but still be walked over

or 15 years the surprisingly English 120-year-old Orien-tal Hotel in Bangkok has been voted the best hotel in the world. The rich and famous will stay nowhere else and the hotel has won so many trophies and awards that it has a spotlit alcove for them near its glittering arcade of exclu-

But how can any one hotel be the best in the world? I arrived determined to be sceptical, to find fault wherever I could, but you cannot fail to be charmed from the moment you arrive. They could be right. This is the best hotel in the world. By the fountains in the lobby a pretty, pink-uniformed Thai girl welcomed me in from the swelter-ing heat of Bangkok with a fragrant jasmine garland, a traditional Thai salute and a glorious smile. A messenger delivered me to the reception desk. A receptionist took me without any delay to my thirdfloor suite. She even filled in my arrival card for me.

The split-level suite was spacious and airy, with silent air-conditioning, a crystal chandelier, fresh flowers and stunning views across the busy Chao Phraya river with its palms, ferns, sampans, ferries and river buses. There were fresh flowers even in the bathroom, along with a huge array of every

toiletry you could possibly need.
The butler arrived in 45 seconds with a glass of chilled orange juice decorated with three purple orchids and asked if there was anything I needed. More orchid petals floated in the fingerbowl beside the plate of fruit and decorated the soap dishes in the bathroom.

And so it went on: they seem to have thought of everything, from the eight superb restaurants and the Thai cooking school to the gym, the spa, the business centre, the culture programme, the hotel's own river cruiser.

In my living room there was a hardback history of the hotel, a new magazines, a rack of postcards, a golden letter opener, a printed card saying in Thai "please drive me to the Oriental", and six sheets of gold-lettered hotel writing paper with my name in gold.

In the bedroom cupboard there was a torch, clothes brush, umbrella, four sizes of slipper and a longhandled shoe-horn for the fatter customer. In the minibar there was iced water and decent-sized bottles of spirits rather than ministures. And the in-house TV movie channel was offering 28 films, from Carry on Cleo to Murder on the Orient Express. Even the electricity power-

points take British plugs.

After a lunch of curried duck and plums I returned to my room to red rose and Taittinger champagne in an ice bucket, with a handwritten welcome from the hotel's German

FACT FILE

Under the Winter

Interfude programme (until Mar 31, 1997) rooms at the Oriental start at £190 a night for one or two people. The price includes breakfast, fruit and flowers on arrival, a complimentary bed for a child under 12 sharing the room with parents, use of the hotel's fitness facilities, and late

check-out up to 6pm. For reservations call 0800 962667. Any passenger arriving from or travelling to Singap on the Eastern and Oriental
Express train (from £890 per
person) may also be entitled
to one free night at the Oriental and one night at the Oriental Hotel in Singapore (reservations on 0171-805 5100).

Asiaworld Travel (01932 820050) offers six nights at the Oriental, including return flights and transfers (room only). from £1,072 per person.

the river in the hotel ferry to enjoy a traditional one-hour Thai massage for £29 in a large private room in the Oriental's Spa Centre set in a lush, tranquil little garden and smelling deliciously of warm herbs. The young masseuse was so skilful that I fell asleep as she crawled up and down my spine on her knees.
Afterwards I felt about 20 years old.

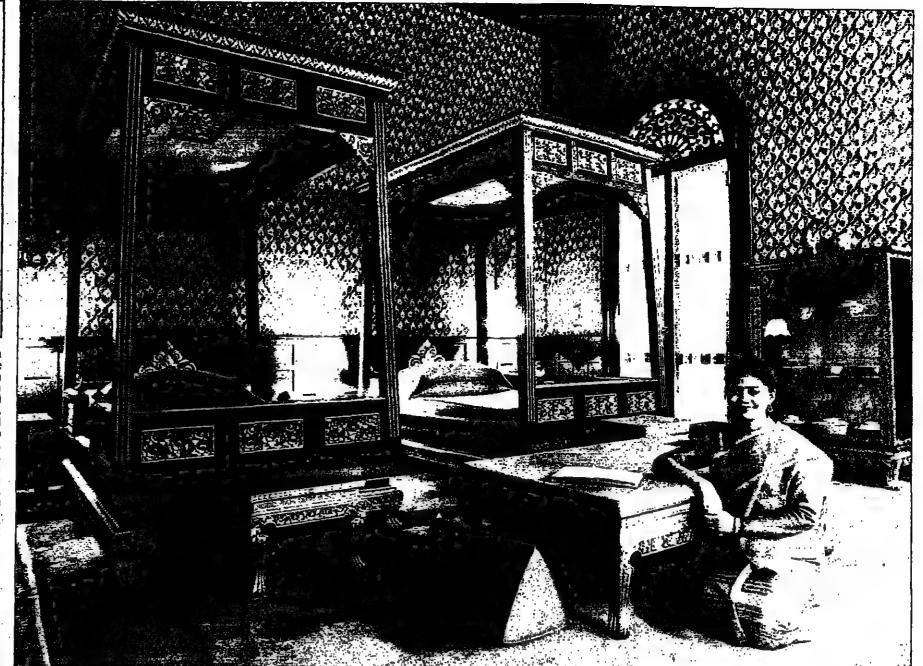
The £9 afternoon tea in the airy, ferny Authors' Lounge - with multins, scores, Devonshire clotted cream, fruit cake and black-tie musicians playing the flute and guitar — could have been served at the London Ritz, and during early evening sundowners in the vast. elegant lobby the Oriental string quartet was playing Greensleeves. When I returned to my room there was a plate of savoury spring rolls garnished with a purple orchid, to go with the champagne.

inner that night - Japanese sushi in the Lord Jim restaurant as the pianist played As Time Goes By - was beautifully presented and delicious, even the studded octopus tentacles, even though I had never tried raw fish before.

Afterwards the cool, flowerdecked riverside terrace was a joy after the heat of the day, and Henrietta Robinson, the American jazz singer who kept us up until lam in the Bamboo Bar, was

When I finally crawled into bed I found, carefully laid out beside the bed, a linen napkin and hotel slippers. It was L30am and I did not know how to switch off the light reception a smiling member of staff arrived in moments.

In fact, every member of staff was always gracious and smiling.



The Somerset Maugham suite at the Oriental hotel has twin four-posters. Among the other suites named after authors is a pink one in honour of Barbara Cartland

curtain was so inadequate that the

afternoon corridor said she hoped 1 was having a nice day, And everywhere so many waiters were standing around that I know at last why they are called waiters.

Not everything would be to everyone's taste. I could have done without the nightly leaf-wrapped flower left on my pillow with quotations like this: "Golden slumbers kiss your eyes, smiles awake

I could also have done without the discovery that the Reading and that among all the plush fourposter, £522-a-night suites named after writers who have stayed in the hotel - Conrad, Maugham, Cow-Even a cleaning woman in an ard, Greene. Wilbur Smith - there

is one in pink called the Barbara Cartland Suite

Two Australian women guests also complained to me that they were unable to get an iron and board to press their clothes, which they preferred to do themselves. When I asked the manager about it he said: "if you have to think about spending three dollars to have a blouse pressed, you shouldn't be staying at the Oriental."

The only big flaw I could find in the hotel was my cramped 5ftstretch my legs in the bath, let alone lie down, and the shower head was so low that I had to bend down to wash my hair, the shower tended to turn suddenly hot or cold and the

floor was flooded each time. And ( could hear my neighbour whenever he ran a tap or flushed the lavatory. "We are replacing all those bath-rooms next year," Wachtveit promised. In the end, however, the pluses far outweigh the rare minuses. This hotel is all they say it is. The secret lies in the utter dedication of Mr Wachtveitl, who

has been manager for 29 years, and

his 1,300 staff - and his constant

Buddhist search for perfection. "1

"but my mistress is the hotel". And his philosophy is devastat-ingly simple: Always give the customers just a little more than they expect. "The Oriental is the

modern answer to the 1920s Grand Hotel," says Wachtveitl. "I can't think of any other hotel where you can do everything under one roof. Thailand is noisy, organised chaos and this beautiful, charming, romantic hotel is a real oasis. The Oriental has a soul. "That culture lends itself to hospitality. They have a rich spirituality. They welcome you into the hotel as they would into their own house. No other hotel has that. And we are very close to the staff: two-thirds of them years. They feel like a family. We have staff days, sports days, and send them all off now and then to a jungle monastery retreat where they sleep on the ground and eat roots and ants. When they come back they're great friends. It's team work. We also listen carefully to our guests: if a suggestion comes up 20 times, then we do it." With its flowers, running water and music everywhere, the Oriental has the most wonderfully relaxed, oldfashioned blend of Thai and English serenity, a sense of style, elegance, fragrance and harmony with all the six senses.

And as Graham Greene wrote in "It remains a hotel where almost anything may happen and one may meet almost anybody from a mere author to an international crook on his way elsewhere."

## Such an engaging journey for that perfect proposal

For two years Andreas
Schwengeler, a Swiss
railwayman, scrimped and saved, denied himself any unnecessary expenditure and refused to buy a car. This was so that one day he could take his Spanish girlfriend Beatriz Gonzalez on the world's most romantic train journey, the three-day, two-night, 1,207mile trip on the Eastern & Oriental Express from Singapore to Bangkok.

Mr Schwengeler was determined to propose to Miss Gonzalez, a Zurich bank clerk. in the most romantic place he could imagine. And what could be a more romantic place for a railwayman than the most exotic line in the world on a train that was inspired by the 1932 Marlene film, Shanghai

in June 1996 they finally made the trip and Mr Schwengeler asked Christopher Byatt, the train's English manager, where would be the best place for him to

propose.
I put champagne, two glasses and a bouquet of flowers in the library, and a garland of jasmine and roses on the Buddha. A small prayer was made to the Buddha," says Mr Byatt.

Then I asked a steward to tell the couple that I wished to see them both in the library immediately. Schwengeler knew that was the code."

The stratagem worked. At 2.30pm - as Mr Byatt ensured the couple were not





Celebration: Beatriz Gonzalez and Andreas Schwengeler

disturbed after their lunch of curry soup, sea bream, lemon mousse and white wine in the Singapura dining car — Mr Schwengeler popped the question beneath the little Buddha statue as the train approached the border of Thailand. And Miss Gonzalez, of

course, said yes. It is a romantic story utterly typical of the E&O Express, surely the most stylish train running anywhere in the world. "We've travelled twice on the Orient Express in Europe, too," Mr Schwengeler told me later, "but the Orient

Express was never as beautiful as this." He is right. With its art deco fittings, its Thai dancing girl. its Chinese pianist, the starlit open-air veranda observation car, the tasselled tangerine lampshades in the dining car and wood-panelled library, the E&O is as elegant as a 1930s film set. Boarding the Express just before midnight at Kuala Lumpur's old Moorish railway station, sipping champagne in the saloon car and listening to the black-tied pianist, felt like being transported back in time.

Nothing seems too much

trouble for Mr Byatt, who now lives in Bangkok, or for the other young Englishman who masterminds each journey of the E&O Express, Kevin Cape, the train's cockney executive chef. He once worked at the Connaught Hotel in London and then ran an hotel/restaurant in the Lake District, but he now lives in Singapore and for three years has been respon-

sible for the train's superb

ike Mr Byatt, Mr Cape seems unfazed by crises and challenges. On one trip," he says, "the Thai Royal Family cancelled its booking but then at the last minute, just as we were about to leave Bangkok, one of the staff came running along the platform saying they're coming, they're coming — the Thai Royal Family. And they were. Wefed them but there wasn't a lot

"We've had crises on board, as well. The freezer broke down once and I had to phone ahead to get the sorbets in dry ice. And we've had to wash the plates in Perrier because someone forgot to fill the train with tap water. But I like

decisions you can change any-thing around. Just don't

Cooking gourmet food aboard a train as it clacketyclacks past the palm trees, paddy fields and water buffalo of the South-East Asian jungle is very different from doing it in England.

You have to import all of it." Mr Cape says. "Cheese from France, beef from the US, salmon from Scotland. And the logistics of carrying it all on the train are difficult. I've got no ice cream on board, for instance, but if you said you wanted some for dinner tonight I could get it in about four hours.

"It's a tough life. Cooking on the train is cramped and the two kitchens are very small. Because of the restricted space you have to consider how much chopping and cutting a dish might take, and you have to contend with the movement of the train. The Malay chefs have to be taught to get a pot only half-full. You have to learn little tricks like that.

"But I love this job. The train's a beautiful product - a fantastic, classy, English product - and I have much more independence than I would have in an hotel. I could never go back to work in England. I'm too Asian now. I love Asia and the people - they're not so intense about the rat-race and I have a Filipina girlfriend

in Singapore. "I do miss London and I used to enjoy dining out there at places like the Connaught, which is my all-time favourite But the last time I went back I couldn't believe how miserable everyone looked. It's like everything's become totally

Mr Cape specialises in French food with a slight Asian flavour. "We don't serve Asian food as such because of the small size of the tables, and anyway a lot of people don't understand Asian food. We try to blend things. We do sushi



Train passengers bargain with traders at a typical country station in Thailand

for our Japanese passengers and sushi with smoked fish for London, but I managed to change all the flight tickets Westerners. Europeans like from the train by using my lamb but Asians don't they mobile telephone." think it's slightly sour, so we However, his happiest pas-

poach it rather than roast it." sengers of all time have probably been Mr Schwengeler and his future bride. "When I get I've had the most absurd questions, like where's the swimming pool?"," says Mr back to Zurich I'm going to Byatt. "I wanted to say on the have zero in my bank acsecond floor, sir'. But we can count," Mr Schwengeler said handle almost any crisis and with a delighted grin, "but I'm a train man at heart. we'll remember this journey \*On one journey we were all our lives."

running three hours late and it

looked as if two couples - and

their 21 pieces of Louis Vuitton

luggage — were going to miss

their flights from Kuala Lum-

pur to Sydney, California and

• Graham Lord was a guest of the Eastern & Oriental Express. the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok, Malaysia Airlines and the Regent Hotel in Kuala

#### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 19

VOLVOX

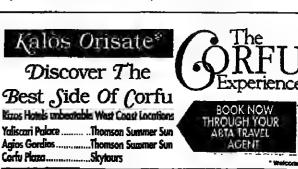
(a) A genus of fresh-water organisms having a soberical form and provided with cilia which enable them to roll over in the water. From the Latin volvere to roll. "In one of my specimens I found a small volvox apparently uninjured."

WENTLETRAP

(c) A marine shell of the genus Scalariidae. An adaptation of the Dutch word for a winding stair or a spiral shell. "A Wentletrap which fetched 40 guineas in 1701 (Rumphius) vas worth only 20 guineas in 5 shillings."

(b) A common European species of pike-perch, Stizostedion lucioperca, valued as a food fish. In modern Latin sandra, "The German zander, pike-perch, one of the best-flavoured of the family."

(c) A gaiter, usually in the plural, from vamp the Norman French for that part of hose or stockings which covers the foot and ankle. "Instead of white stockings, he displayed gold-buttoned vamplets of orange velvet." Who he, the old dandy? Malvolio?



"The Island of Myth & Legend" Tel/Fax: 01245 257666 Cor The Corfu Advice Centre P.O. Box 3401, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8GA

Write or call us now for our free brochure and find out more about

## Fiji: Where champagne Crusoes find cocktail bars and four-poster beds; plus, into the hills for local liquor

# The club-class castaways



cunveys so much more. On Fijian lips it means hello, welcome, cheers, hope you are enjoying your stay. Have a nice day, but with feeling.

There are more than 300 islands in Fiji but before they tell you about the climate, the water sports and the luxurious resorts, most visitors will recall the people - the friendliest on earth and for whom smiling is a way of life. Many Fijians remain untouched by western civilisation, never having ventured further than the next island, and all over this coral-fringed paradise the people are generous and

Yet that is the only thing the Fijian islands have in common. Each has its own atmosphere and there is a vast range of attractions to suit every taste and almost every pocket, from hostels for Ausrralian backpackers to exclu-

sive private islands.
Our party visited three re-sorts banded together under the banner Five Star Fiji. We flew first by six-seater plane to the Wakaya Club, an hour's flight to the west of Viti Levu, the main island. The flight offered enticing views of the coral reef, lush vegetation and fine, secluded beaches before touching down on an emerald green airstrip that suddenly appeared from nowhere in the

The resort owns the entire island, but accommodation is restricted to eight couples, ach allocated a magnificent bure, a bungalow on traditional lines with a thatched roof. They are splendidly decorated with Fijian arts and crafts and come with every luxury, infour-poster bed. The sea is 50 yards away and the champagne is always on ice.

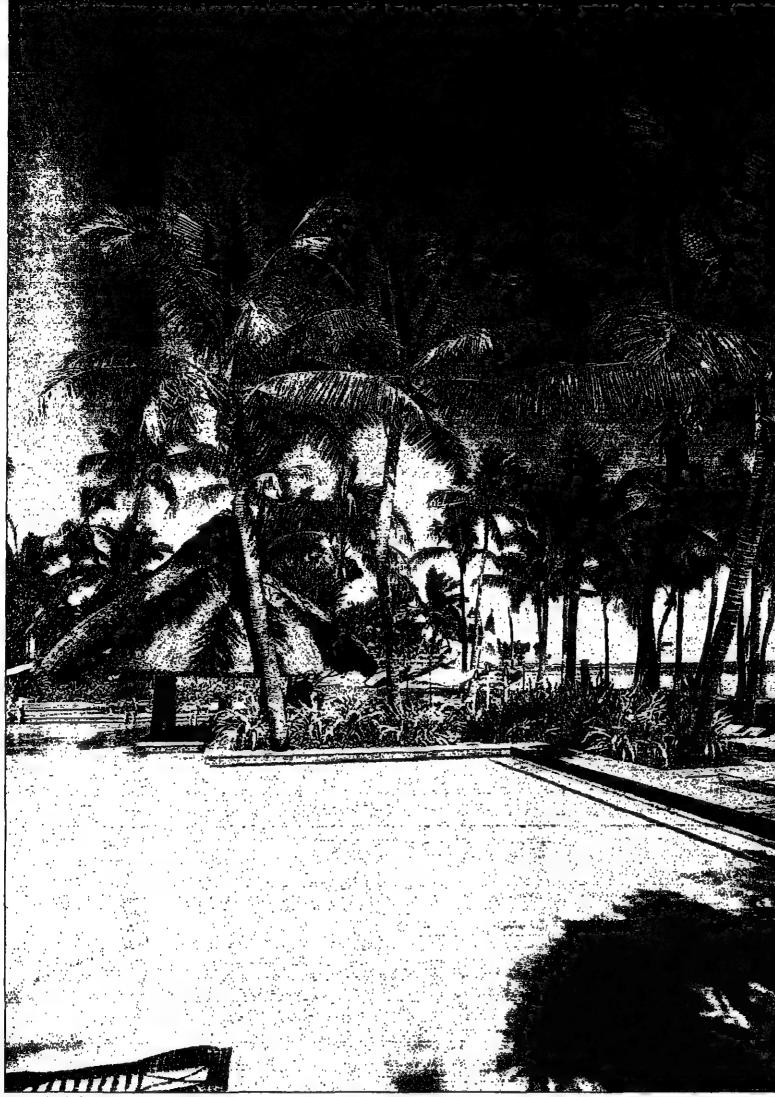
ingly easy nine-hole golf course (it meanders through a coconut grove and nuts failing from above are the main hazard), tennis and water sports of every description, from scuba-diving to windsurling. The less energetic can simply enjoy the underwater wonderland with a trip in a glass-bottomed boat.

Picnic lunches on a private beach are a special treat. Staff drop holidaying couples at Harn with a vast ice box packed with fresh lobster and Until the agreed afternoon pick-up total privacy is guaranteed. Hammocks hang invitingly from the trees and few can resist shedding all clothing for a romantic walk along the beach. It is like being a club-class castaway, a champagne Crusoe.

inner is heralded by the muffled beats of lali drums and is served in a huge 60ft-high pavilion built in traditional style. Four chefs provide sumptuous feasts and each night offers something special. One evening, all the food was cooked on hot coals buried in the sand: on another. supper was preceded by a magnificent display of Fijian

dance and song. Drinks are inclusive but, strangely, by 10pm the bar is deserted. Rob Miller, Wakaya's manager said: "The bures are so luxurious that most couples want to go back to their rooms pretty early. We keep the bar open as long as anyone wants and we get the odd Australian who likes to sit drinking until 3am."

At Wakaya, we came across the kava drinking ceremony. The local chief arrived for the launch of a traditional Fijian boat which the staff had spent two years building. Before it could be rolled down the beach and into the waves, all had to sit cross-legged while bowls of kava, replenished from a huge



The island of Viti Levu is privately owned and accommodation is restricted to eight couples who stay in thatched bungalows, 50 yards from the sea

six-night stay): from £630 per couple per

stay): from £548 for two a day; flight

transfer costs £304 fore two return.

day; scaplane transfer costs £440 return for

two. Vatulele Island (minimum four-night

Health: Fiji does not suffer from tropical

diseases and innoculation is not required.

The water is safe to drink everywhere.

There is a departure tax of 20 Fijian

and credit cards are not accepted here.

dollars. Keep some cash because cheques

Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229

5260) recommends: In Search of Tusitala

by Gavin Bell (Picador, £6.99, ISBN 0 330

34245 2; Pacific Mythology by Jan Knappert (Diamond Books, £8.99, ISBN 0

261 66655 X): Happy Isles of Oceania by

Paul Theroux (Penguin, £6.99, ISBN 0 140 15976 Z; South Pacific Handbook by David Stanley (Moon Publications, £14.99, ISBN

wooden vessel, were passed around. There is one clap before drinking down in one. and three class thereafter. The drink is made from yaquana. the root of the pepper tree, and is not alcoholic but deeply

Turtle Island, on the Blue Lagoon and first sighted by Captain Cook in 1774, is very different. We arrived after 30-minute flight on a small sea-plane and waded through the water to be greeted by 30 singers in garlands and traditone, as everything on Turtle Island is conducted on a

communal basis. The bures are again luxurious, and instead of drums summoning one to dinner, the singers make a torchlight procession of invitation.

Honeymoons and weddings, conducted in delightful Fijian style, with local singers and costumes, are a speciality We were privileged to attend the nuptials of Marty and Linda, a young Californian couple. Although no one other than the bride and groom had known each other for more than a few days, all 14 couples staying on the island were made to feel like guests of honour. Needless to say, the wedding ends with a kara

ceremony. The 500-acre island, the result of a volcanic eruption, is owned by Richard Evanson, a Travel Portfolio (01284 762255). Wakaya Club (minimum five-night stay) from £643 per couple per day: flight transfer £5i5 return per couple. Turtle Island (minimum

Getting there: Quantas (0345 747767) files

Sydney to Fifi has to be booked two weeks

■ When to go: the rainy season is between

tropical and rain is possible outside these

times. Average maximum temperatures are

28C between May and October and 30C in

Accommodation at Five-Star Fiji: prices

(rates are subject to 10 per cent Fijian tax).

include all meals, drinks and activities

in advance and not more than ten weeks

to Fiji from London via Sydney (or Los

Angeles) from EL165. The flight from

can be spent in Fiji. Resorts arrange

onward travel. Visas are not required.

November and April The climate is

visionary and former aviator who found his personal fulfilment in the Pacific. The resort. in his absence, is managed by Joe Naisali, a huge and friendly Fijian from a neighbouring island, who appeared in the Brooke Shields film The Blue Lagoon, which was shot on location on Turtle Island.

the rainy season.

Much of Turde Island remains under mangrove swamp or dense forest and Mr Evanson has done much to restore the original eco-system after it had been ravaged by free-range goats.

Memories never to be forgotten include riding horses along the beach at sunrise before a champagne breakfast and watching the release of the turtles. The resort offers cash for all turtles caught and then marks the shells. This renders them valueless to poachers and souvenir hunters and is harmless to the turtles. The waddle down the beach once they are released is followed by a spectacular break for freedom as they hit the water

FILL FACTOR E

at torpedo-like speed. The staff enjoy socialising with the guests and, late at night, will keep an especially warm welcome for any visitor who ioins the singing and strumming of two magnificent guitars left to the staff by an appreciative Eddie van Halen, the American rock musician while, again, the kava bowl is generously circulated.

night conversation consists of anecdotes of drinking contests with rival villages and tales of falling down when the kava bowl is empty. It is rank bad manners for anyone to leave before the huge wooden bowl has been

Leaving the island for home has been known to reduce guests to tears. The entire staff come to the waterside and sing Isa Lei, a beautiful, haunting song of leaving that has an African-sounding melody. It can be a lengthy goodbye particularly when, as happened to us, excess weight prevents the seaplane from getting airborne. Luggage had to be unloaded to be sent on

later before we could take off. Our last island hop was our favourite. Vatulele differs from the other properties in Five Star Fiji in that the resort does not own the entire island and there are four villages where it is possible to get a glimpse of

Fijian life. Foremost among local crafts is the making of the tapa cloth from the mulberry tree. The bark is beaten by the women until it stretches from an inch wide to seven or eight inches. Several layers are then added until a cloth about three feet wide is created. Many of the women are deaf from beating the bank for up to 12 hours a day. A better, and certainly quieter, job is decorating the tapa in the traditional tan and black designs. A cloth, which

will have taken an entire day to make, costs less than £5, and an afternoon spent watch-ing the process is fascinating. Vatulele also offers excellent diving, fine cuisine, 3,000year-old petroglyphs, caves and magnificent bures built on a Santa Pe design from New

Mexico, which seems to suggest an ancient connection between the native American peoples and the islanders of the south Pacific. Vatulele's style is less private than Wakaya but not as

communal as Turtle Island. We found it the perfect balance. In addition to the trips to the village, two experiences stand out. One was a boat trip for a private picnic on the uninhabited Nooki Nooki Island, a wonderful bird sanctuary on what is little more than an pebble in the ocean. The other element that

makes Vatulele unique is the wit and wisdom of Martin Livingston, the artist, sculptor and bon viveur who manages the resort. Mr Livingston always joins his guests for meals, where he ribs them gently about their quirks and foibles. The stuffy could find his humour offensive, but most visitors love it, because he likes to weave tales.

On the first night he told all and sundry that I was in the timber industry and was in Fiji to chop down a few hundred acres of hardwoods in the rain forest. What he knew, and we didn't, was that several other guests were of a strongly ecological persua-sion. We received some deeply shocked looks until our ecofriends realised that they, too, had been well and truly Livingstoned, Bula, bula,

NIGEL WILLIAMSON The author was a guest of

Turtle Island and Vatulele



# with a rural scene to match

get bored on beaches, even ones as perfect as Fiji's: white sand, cocomut palms, sunbathing, snorkelling, and so on. All very nice, and hadn't spoken to one Fijian, beyond a few pleasantries to staff at the resort. I wanted to see the other side of the country, if there was one,

away from the resorts. After a browse through my Lonely Planet guidebook on the village Navala, in the hills of Viti evu, Fiji's main island.

In fact, there are three Fijis. The tourist beaches are one. The second is the traditional Fijian villages, but to reach them I had to go through a third Fiji: small, bustling coastal towns full of the India migrants who constitute half.

the nation's population. The town where I changed ouses, Ba, might have been in India: shops selling aromatic Indian sweet stalls, signs in Hindi and Urdu.

Leaving Ba, the old British Leyland bus roared off in a cloud of dust and exhaust furnes. It struggled up steep inclines, tilting at angles that only Third World buses can manage. The sugar plantations of the hot coastal plains gave way to rugged hills, cliffs of black volcanic rock jutting out of dry yellow grass. And then, in a valley over a last hill, there was Navala.

The viliage, on a grassy, sloping riverbank, is one of the few in Fiji still built entirely of bures (pronounced boo-rays). About 60 of these thatchedroof homes stood in neat rows. surrounded by flowers, coconut paims and vegetable patches. Children ran between them; some youths played touch rugby, and men carrying machetes returned from the sugar fields. In the surrounding hills, fires burned as part of a wild boar hunt. It looked beautiful, a perfect little

self-contained world. It reminded me of an African village, though any like-ness of the dark-skinned Fijians to Africans is misleading: Fijians are Melanesians who migrated from South-East Asia, not Africa.

Then I was shown into

the home of the village chief. It was one large room, the floor covered in palm mats; empty except for two beds and a wardrobe. On the wall were family photographs, and those of the Fijian prime minister and the Pope. The chief was a roundbellied, greying man, in jeans and sweatshirt. He invited me to drink some grog, or yaquana, made from a ground-root plant called kava. It is the traditional Fijian brew, drunk mainly by men. It is slightly narcotic and numbing. I'd heard that too much could cause you to lose all muscular control. I was a little disappointed to find that we were still perfectly co-ordinated when dinner arrived - a tasty stew of wild pig,

mattress on the floor, sharing the room with the chief's son John, his wife and their child. Next morning everyone went to church, "cos we Catholics, see". Having heard that visitors are often asked to deliver a sermon, I explored the village, instead, accompanied by the inevitable entourage of skipping and giggling

I spent the night on a

fresh from the hunt.

into a bure to meet "the village netball team" - and the conversation quickly reached a familiar stage.
"You married?"

"Oh. (A pause) "Single?"
"I have a girlfriend."
In Third World villages. people tend to work on the principle that any single (western) gentle man, presumably in possession of a fortune. must necessarily be in need of a wife. For anyone traveiling alone, a girlfriend (or boy-friend) is necessary fiction if

For once, Fiji is a place where the colonial legacy seems positive, Christianity ending years of rampant cannibalism. The British never invaded but were invited, in the mid-19th century, to take over the islands by the fearsome Chief Cakabu - said to have personally killed and inter-tribal warfare. The British, not surprisingly, initially turned down the offer.

ir Arthur Gordon, the hirst governor, decreed that no land could be sold to a non-Fijian, and no native labour could be used on the new sugar plantations. He also left the traditional village chief system in place and, as a result. Fijian culture is the best-preserved in the South

The other side of the British decision not to exploit native labour was the importation of workers from India, Someone had to keep the sugar mills supplied and Sir Arthur wasn't about to do the work himself. Denied access to land. the Indians in Fiji developed an industrious business ethic and now run the economy.

tures are hard to imagine. The Indians, living in small nowns on the coast, are hard-working, eager to make money and keen for progress. The Fijians are relaxed and conservative and sit around for hours, drinking grog. The British also installed an

abiding affection for two of their favourite upper-class institutions: the Royal Family and rugby union, both almost obsessions in Fiji. The most common ques-

tions I was asked - after "Where you from?" and "You married?" - were, "You play rugby?" and "How is Princess Next morning I caught the

bus down the pot-holed road to the Indian supermarkets and sari shops of Ba, and from there I travelled back to my beach paradise.

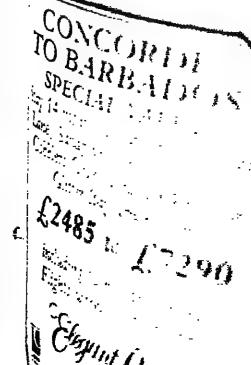
In two days I'd learnt just a little about Fiji. but it was more than I would have in a month at the beach.

MARK MANN



Isle of arand peace







## Northumberland: At the turn of the tide each day Lindisfarne returns to its island state and venerable past

# Isle of war and peace

mile-long neck of land beneath the North Sea for five hours, uncoupling Lindisfarne, also known as Holy island, from the Northumberland coast. Having consulted the tidal chart, I strode off along the Pilgrims' Causeway, citting through mud flats. It was like crossing an infinity of

shiny chocolate pudding.
The liquid call of countless curlews floated across the emptiness. Through binoculars I watched them dip their lars I watched them dip their long, curved beaks into the mud, pulling out wriggling lugworms. The mud popped and whistled, letting off fleeting, fetid odours which mingled with a salty zephyr wafting off the sea.

As I progressed, Lindis-farne's huge, monolithic, cas-tie-crowned rock encircled by sand dunes, green farmland and the blackened remains of a great priory, appeared out of

Witharun

cene to ma

the morning mist. Over the centuries, islanders have been monks, fisher-men and farmers. Nowadays it is more lucrative to offer bed and breakfast, run tea shops or sell Lindisfarne mead. The island is the jewel in the crown of the "Northumbrian Heritage" industry, and seethes

with tourists. "This bridge is totally sub-merged at high tide" warns a blunt road sign at the end of the causeway. It might also usefully add. "And these mud flats disappear more quickly than you would believe possible", I thought, as a single, shallow wave raced in, engulfing acre after acre much faster than most people can run.

Thank goodness for the tide. As the last crossing time approached, day visitors hurried to their cars to join a single-file, migratory route

back to the Al. Soon after, Lindisfarme turned back into an island and its singular atmosphere re-emerged.

I walked round the perime ter wall just above the highwater level and climbed up on to the bluffs to listen in solitude to the wind and the gulls and the waves breaking on the black rocks below.

Later, I wandered among the ruined arches and columns of the 1,000-year-old priory, on the green turf where great flagstone once lay. It seemed an appropriate place to reflect on the island's

history. In AD 635 St Aidan was sent by St Columba to establish Lindisfarne as his base and convert the powerful warrior heathens of Northumbria to an alien religion demanding peace and contemplation. Within a century, according to the Venerable Bede, the great scholar who recorded this era. many Northumbrians, both noble and simple, laid aside their weapons, preferring to take monastic vows than study

the art of war". Was this why Northumber land seemed defenceless against the raping pillaging and havoc-wreaking Norse-

men the following century? The monks were slaughtered or driven out, but 200 years later others returned to rename it Holy Island and rebuild the priory. They stayed until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1500s. Later that century, most of the stones from the priory were taken to build Lindisfarne Castle as part of the war effort against the Scots.

Pacifism may be less popular in the late 20th century than it was a millennium and a half ago, but the ethereal influence of the early Lindisfarne Christians lives on in



Lindisfarne Castle, encircled by sand dunes and farmland, was built in the late 16th century as part of the English war effort against the Scots

aura, legend and folklore. St Aidan, Bede and, most of all, St Cuthbert are all still revered. The latter was a shepherd-turned monk who meditated in solitude on the island of Inner Farne for nine years before becoming Bishop of Lindisfarne. He is credited with countless miracles and his tomb is the holiest shrine in Durham Cathedral.

To follow Cuthbert's footsteps to the Farne Islands, I returned to the mainland and drove ten miles down the coast, past the looming for-tress of Bamburgh. Northum-berland is peppered with such strongholds as constant reminders of the almost incessant hostility between Scots

GL
BAL Flights & holidays

throughout the world EURO GETAWAYS USA GETAWAYS WORLD GETAWAYS

Brockspest £165 Rome £129 Bermada £349 Orlando £289 Cape Town £585 Mexico £299

269 Boston £189 New York £189 Beijing £359 Mamila £432

and English, which the message of the Celtic Christians proved powerless to prevent. At the fishing port and holiday village of Seahouses, I joined a boat tour of the Farne Islands, which are scattered between two-and-a-half and eight miles off the coast.

n all there are 28 of these islands, some sinking and re-emerging with the tide. The highest rise 100ft above sea level, their characteristic fluted stacks with angular corners looking as if they have been sliced off a

larger chunk of land.
The archipelago is owned by the National Trust and is inhabited only by a few lighthouse keepers and wildlife wardens, who share the islands with hundreds of thousands of seabirds and several herds of seals.

Landings are permitted on two of the larger islands, Inner Farne and Staple. Most tours from Seahouses spend about an hour on one of these islands, and a couple more weaving among the others. My trip rounded the lighthouse on Longstone, one of the furthest islands, from where the young heroine Grace Darling, famous throughout northeast England, launched her courageous rescue of the shipwrecked crew of the Forfanshire in 1838. Then we stopped to bob about, watch-

> AUSTRALIA DELA DE ESP

ing fat, slumbering seals and their pups basking on the rocks before regaining their grace when they slid back into the water.

The birds are superabundant, Inner Farne, where we landed, has one of the largest colonies of puffins in the British Isles. I also watched crowds of sleek razorbills, ugly herring guils and mottled eider ducks. The menacing, red-beaked Arctic terms were less welcoming. I saw one dive on an innocent visitor, a middle-aged woman who was clearly regarded as an intruder, as she stepped ashore. Blood was drawn and the attack was successful in that she retreated angrily into

**IETLINE** 

0171 360 1111

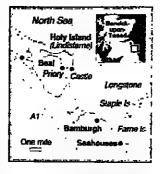
St Cuthbert's chapel, only to re-emerge, clutching a book on top of her head, when it was

The chapel is built on the site where the saint meditated alone in his cell. However. amid the cacophony of seabirds and day-trippers, it was hard to take oneself back to that age.

I cannot help feeling that it would be a different story if one could spend a night alone there, dwelling on the "de-mons in cowls, their heads long, their countenances most hideous", which Cuthbert described and is believed to have vanguished.

**MARTIN SYMINGTON** 

FLIGHTSEATS



#### FACT FILE

Lindisfarne is about ten miles south of Berwickupon-Tweed and the Scottish border. Information on tides is displayed at both ends of the causeway, or ring 01289 330733 (Mon-Sat 10am-1pm, 2-4pm). Boat tours of the Farne Islands leave from Seahouses in April to the end of September. These are cancelled in bad

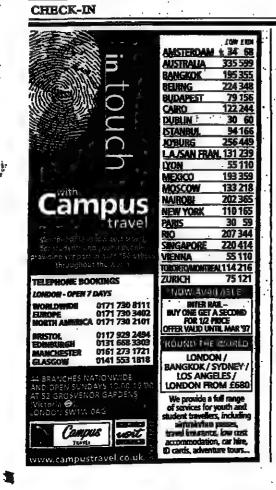
Lindisfarne, try the Lindisfarne Hotel (01289 3892731, £49 for double Olde Ship Inn (01665 B&B, closed Dec and Jan. Linden Hall Hotel (01670 516611), near Morpeth, is luxurious and costs £125 for double B&B. Also recommended is Marshall Meadows Hotel (01289 331133). £80 for double B&B.

What to see: Ainwick Castle (01665 510777) is still Northumberland but open to the public. It has the Regimental Museum of Royal Northumberland fusiliers, and Capability Brown gardens. Warkworth Castle (01665 711423) is medieval in character with a dark, austere keep. Shakespeare set several scenes of Henry IV here, dramatising the intrigue between the Earl of Northumberland and his son Harry Hotspur. Bamburgh (01668 214208) in its heyday was a royal castle where the kings of Northumbria were crowned. It fell into ruin and has been restored in a bizarre Victorian style. The Grace Darling Museum (01668 214465), also in Bamburgh, celebrates the heroine's life and displays her lifebook. She died of TB in 1842 at the age of 26, and is buried in the graveyard

TO ADVERTISE CALL:

## **TRAVEL**

0171 481 4000 (PRIVATE)











TONGHAUT: 0171-937-5122 TRANSATLANTIC & EUROPEAN: 0171-937-2654

52 FARLS COURT ROAD, KENSINGTON, LONDON W8 6EJ OPEN: MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9AM-6PM; SATURDAY 10AM-2PM

#### Calvia clean-up

HAS MAGALUF gone soft? The Majorcan resort, where ten years ago I couldn't find the beach among the skyscrapers and lager-lout bars. is introducing Tai Chi exercises on the beach, as well as tea dances, Spanish language and cookery lessons.

It's all part of the Calvia region's clean-up, which has cost £78 million since 1990 and is aimed at transforming Magaluf, Palma Nova, Santa Ponsa and Illetas into resorts fit for human beings (preferably families).

The resorts now have proper pavements and walkways, litter bins that don't convert into beach kickabouts and. instead of building offensive skyscraper hotels, they've pulled some down.

Next resort on the hit-list is Paguera, which has excellent beaches but a thoroughly scruffy main road. About £4.6 million has been earmarked for improvements.

#### Cruise début

THOUGH latecomers to cruising, Britain's largest tour operator. Thomson Holidays (0990 502555), is going full steam ahead with a programme of cruises for 14,000 passengers next year. Prices start at £399 for a week out of Palma in November though £600 is the average

weekly cost. Following a successful winter in the Caribbean, Thomson is to introduce three and four-night cruises from the

Bahamas taking in Miami, Key West and Coco Cay. on board Royal Caribbean Line's 2,518-passenger Sovereign of the Seas. A two-week package, with four nights at sea and ten ashore in an allinclusive hotel in Nassau.

costs from £1,259. A two-week cruise-andstay holiday with one week in a Dominican Republic hotel and another on board Norwegian Caribbean Line's 1,500 passenger Seaward, costs £1,115-£1,259, sailing from Santo Domingo.

#### Turf 'n' surf

RANCH holidays probably owe as much to the authentic old Wild West as Africa's wildlife does to Mickey Mouse (on one I tried in the Carskills, no one was allowed to canter because of "insurance" problems), but they can be fun and offer reasonably active holidays in nice places.

Ranch America (0181-868 2970) will steer competent riders to more adventumus establishments. The David Ranch in Wyoming, for ex-ample, is a full-working range with 6,000 head of cattle, and holidaymakers may be asked to herd, brand. learn how to fix a fence or how to rope. The cost is £1,290 fully inclusive.

Twin Peaks Ranch, Idaho, offers a turf 'n' surf combina tion of riding coupled with white-water rafting on the River Salmon, which runs through the ranch. The cost is £1,590, inclusive for a week. Kuoni (01306 742222) has introduced holidays in dude

ranches in Arizona costing

from £946 a week.

Holidays, Prices start at £99

for a night with B&B in Paris,

Ell5 in Amsterdam. Three

- JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

nights in Rome start at £312, in Budapest £309, and £305 in Monte Carlo. Cost-cutters

A SERIES of low-price city breaks, valid from January I Holy trail to March 19, 1997, has been launched by British Airways

A NEW eight-day walk along St Cuthbert's Way from Melrose to Bamburgh, Scotland, is offered by Sherpa Expedi-

Would-be dudes can ride 'em cowboy style on working-ranch holidays in America tions (0181-577 Z717). The walk links abbeys, castles, market towns and moorlands associated with the 7th century saint. One night is spent in Lindisfarne (Holy Island). Self-guided walks cost £385 (escorted £450), which include B&B at inns, routes and baggage transport.

# The best wine bars on the grapevine

than self-assured about the quality of its wines, tongue-scarring stuff is still served in many cafés. This is why the French drink so much Kir as an apéritif: the crème de cassis or blackcurrant liqueur kills the bleachy taste of cheap white wine. A great improvement on this is the revival of the Cardinal, which couples crème de mûre (bramble) with a chilled, light-red wine such as Gamay or Sancerre.

For a superior glass, how-ever, the sensible Parisian attends his local wine bar, particularly at lunchtime when food, especially cheese, a step above café fare, is served. Wine bar owners have a reputation to keep. Their vintages are carefully chosen. often specialising in a specific area such as the Rhone, Bordeaux or the Loire, and customers and owners can indulge ssion of each bottle.

For those who are not wine buffs, a few hours' work at the zinc in a wine bar can result in knowledge useful for purchasing a case. Many Paris wine bars also sell wine from their cellars by the bottle or dozen to

take home Le Rubis, an ancient institution just down from the Opera, ls your traditional wine bar, with sawdust on the floors and barrels on which to stand your glass. After tasting, you can buy bottles to take away. It is noisy, amusing and packed, particularly when the Beaujo-lais Nouveau is launched. there are branches of L'Ecluse wine bar - a reliable chain with good wines which lacks eccentricity but is better than falling into the nearest café.

Perhaps the best-decorated wine bar in the city is the Clown Bar, next door to the old Cirque d'Hiver building, which is tiled with circus and clown motifs. The wine is served in generous glasses.



with much discussion. On the Left Bank, the Bistro des Augustins is charming, with an Art Deco bar and lighting, delicious sourdough Pain de Poilane, runny cheeses and homemade puddings. Again, wines can be taken away.

Although French-style wine bars invaded Britain long ago, revenge has been taken by an Englishman, Mark Williamwho opened Willi's Wine Bar in the business district 16 years ago, and its offshoot, Juveniles, more recently. Willi's has superb food and a cellar which varies from the

the glass, which you wish were larger, cost Frl6-Fr70 (about £2-£8). The bar specialises in wines from the Rhône, the South West and Provence, sherries, and what the owner describes as "fun wines" from

Italy, Spain and California. The specials change every day. Last Monday he had a fine 1993 Mersault from Pierre Morey, and a Domaine de Trevallon Cabernet Sauvignon of the same year from

Although Willi's does not sell selections from its cellar, Juveniles will supply wine by the case. Bottles usually costs Fr16-Fr30, and is of more

recent vintage.

Mr Williamson says his clientele was mostly French until the Channel Tunnel opened. At lunchtime, workers pour in to Willi's from the Bourse or ministries nearby. The other night at dinner. however, we were trapped at a table between four London accountants and American businessmen and women from New Jersey, expertly mistranslating the menu.

#### KATE MUIR

● L'Ecluse, (Paris chain), 64 Rue François-ler, 8th (47 20 77 09), Willi's, 13 Rue de Petits-Champs, 1st (42 61 05 09). Le Rubis, 10 Rue du Marché, Saint-Honoré, 1st (42 61 03 34). Bistro des Augustins, 39 Quai de Grands-Augustins. 6th (43 54 41 65). Juveniles. 47 Rue de Richelieu, 1st (42 97 46 49). Clown Bar, 114 Rue Amelot,



0171-499-9626 Windsor

*01753-830350* 

(Both 24 Hours)

Let Sirius Put

You in the

Picture

"A stunning... success rate... Countless long term relationships" MAIL ON SCHOOL

leastiful friendskips art here" Dans Mas. AS FEATURED ON

BBC2's "THE VILLAGE"

personal interviews, in-depth

profiles of potential partners and, of

Even before you subscribe, we send you sample

profiles of twenty four potential partners in your area,

individually matched just for you.

NORTH WEST SOUTH WEST 01625 582800 01225 858514 en 19th - Sun 26th Jo Circles NE 0181 426 9168 LOOKING FORWARD TO 1997?

specialises

Candleburners!

or writing to

FREEPOST 305, London EC1B 1SY

8.30am to 10.08pm - 7 days a week

a 1990 0171 371 5535

The Old Brewery, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4SG Telephone 01993 824500 LONDON AND NATIONWIDE

Give us the outline... and well fill in the CLOSE 0800 141 141

your borizons

FOR FREE DETAILS WITH

23 ABINGDON RD



ALL BOX NUMBER KEPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: BOX No:- .... SO THE TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD P.O.BOX 3553, VIRGINIA ST. LONDON, ÉL 9GA





actions on how to scord your face voice greating, and how to minime messages that have been left for you, also for feet.

r our advantages. When you place your personnel ad professional people, and our new schephone feature makes in our, (at the cost of \$1.25 per line and a box number their and more effective than ever before. You'll still receive postal replies, but now you'll also have many more quality responses from our easy to use, confidential value messages

ACROSS THE ROOM

EVARKLING DINNER DANCES WHITEHOU BREAKS HENTE, ESSEX, SUPPOLIK, Call Pleatnor 01277 352742

MEETING PEOPLE HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER! SO, DON'T MISS OUT - PLACE YOUR AD TODAY! Call 0171 680 6868

SPECIAL OFFER! -

Until further switce, when you book your advertisement for 2 consecutive Saturdays you will may be charged \$5.75 per line each week and a single Bex No. charge of £11.75. A 30% Discount For 2 Weeks Advertising! For help with year copy call Sylvin Grow on 0171 600 6068. Fac: 0171 481 9313 or return the compon i

ACCESSID VISAD AMEXID CARD NO:

#### CHRISTMAS CHESS QUIZ by Raymond Keene

Kacakovski-Szuhanek

Palic 1995

Black to play

In this position, White is not just a

piece up but seems better devel-

oped and better centralised. Is this

Yanes-Foyo; Cuba 1995 Black to play

A piece down, it hardly seems likely

that Black can force perpenual check, let alone win. Is there a

surprise?

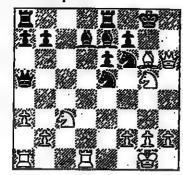
8

FROM Monday to Friday, your reward for solving the Winning Move puzzle is the warm glow of pride in your achievement. At Christmas, though, a more tangible gratification is on offer, namely a generous supply of champagne for the winner.

Here are four positions to test your chess skills over the Christmas break. In each case I require the first move only. The reward for the winner is a jereboam of Moët et Chandon champagne.

#### Gipslis-Pushkeits Berlin 1995 White to play

White has sacrificed a piece in order to cluster his attacking forces around the black king. The obvious try is 1 Bh7+, but after 1... Kh8 can White make progress, or does White have something stronger in the initial position?



Gonzalez-Bravo Havana 1995 Black to play

A pawn which has marched close to the enemy king can be extremely dangerous. How did Black exploit the presence of his pawn on g3?



White to play. This position is from the game Jacobs - Jackson, London

1979. In this position, which arose

from the King's Gambit, White has

relinquished four pawns in an

attempt to create active piece play

on the kingside. How did it pay off?

Send your answers on a postcard to

The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct.

solution drawn on Monday, De-

cember 30, will receive a year's

subscription to the Staunton

Society, including a free invitation

to the annual dinner at Simpson's-

The solution will appear in two

in-the-Strand.

1997, addressed to: Chess Christmas Quiz, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. Normal Times competition rules apply. The winner will be the first

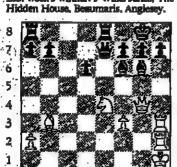
Answers should reach me at The

Times no later than January 3,

answer drawn out of a hat which solves all four puzzles correctly. Those readers who solve all

four positions (and I shall give the answers in the new year) can give themselves a pat on the back. One of them, and I shall not say which. defeated your columnist — and I had to look up how the game continued.

By Raymond Keene Last week's solution: 1 Bxf7+ (I



Rxf7 2 No4 traps the black queen).

Last week's winner: J Wilks-Jones, The



FOR the Christmas Punchline competition, readers are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced with permission from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library). The winner will receive a jeroboam of Moët & Chandon champagne. Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (31). Weekend, The Times, l Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The Editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is January 1, 1997.

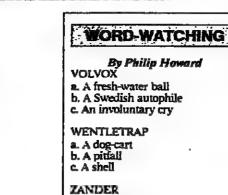
THIS week the Games page adds extra sparkle to the satisfaction of pitting your wits against the quiz masters and the puzzle setters. As a festive incentive there are jeroboams of Moët & Chandon champagne for the winners of the Bridge, Chess, Computer Games, Punchline and the Waterstones Crossword. Normal Times competition rules apply. The judges' decision is final and they cannot enter into correspondence.





"Spades, stakes, mallets - that'll be twenty quid Dr Van Helsing. Make sure they're back by sunrise" The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above)

was submitted by Brian Lockett of London



c. Unleavened bread VAMPLET a. A Lolita

a. A wise lawyer

b. A handkerchief

b. A fish

c. A gaiter

Answers on page 15

#### CHRISTMAS BRIDGE QUIZ

#### by Robert Sheehan

WHERE it is relevant, you are The auction has been: playing good-quality rubber bridge. Partially-correct answers will be awarded a reduced score.

I These are the North-South cards: ♥5432 **+5432 \$5492** 

N S .\_ **±KQJ10 ▼KQJ ◆KQJ** +KGJ

Neither opponent has a suit longer than four cards. How many tricks can you guarantee in a No-Trump contract? (10 points)

2 (i) How do you play this hand in 7NT on a spade lead. East playing the queen? (5 points) (ii) In what circumstances does correct play gain? (5 points)

**•542 ₹**A643 • none + AKQ 1098 N W - E 9. ELA A D

+64 3 Your partner deals and opens One Spade and you hold: ♠A KJ6 ♥A KJ1083 ♦J ♠J9 What do you reply? (10 points)
4 You are on lead from this hand: AKQ1032 ♥A62 ◆754 ♣63

♦AKQJ1087

Your partner leads the queen of spades; declarer wins with the king and returns the nine of diamonds. running it to your queen. How do you plan the defence? (10 points) Send your answers to the Christ-

What is your lead? (10 points)

This has been the auction:

5 You are East on the hand below.

1D 2D 3NT

¥A532

41

♦KJ10873

Pass Pass All Pass

+953

\*Q65

E ₩K76

mas Bridge Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN by Friday, January 3, 1997. Anyone who has played interna-tional bridge in the past five years will be handicapped 5 points. The winners' names will be published on Saturday, January II. The first prize is a jeroboam of Moët and Chandon champagne. Second, third and fourth prizes

will be annual subscriptions to one of the main bridge magazines Unternational Popular Bridge, Bridge Magazine and Bridge Plus). Six prizes, allotted by random draw from all non-prize winners, will be copies of More Bedside Bridge, edited by Elena Jeronimidis.

of the Wars of the Roses, fought in 1485? A. Battle of Bosworth Field

20. What was Groucho Marx's real

Good luck!

#### CHRISTMAS COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES QUIZ

THE following questions are from the quiz element of four widely available CD-Roms. The winner will receive a jeroboam of Moët et Chandon champagne. Mark your answers clearly, with your name, address and home telephone number - and send your entry to: End of Year Quiz, Computer Games & Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, 1. Pennington Street, London El 9XN. Your entries must reach us by

Friday January 3. 1. In computing, what name is given to a list of options displayed on a monitor from which the user selects a required

A. Directory . Menu

2. Neartsy was one of the names originally suggested for Snow White's Seven Dwarfs. Which of the following names was not among the origin suggestions?

Whiny Awini 3. Edward VIII was forced to abdicate in order to be able to marry which US

A. Mrs Battenburg B. Mrs Wallace C. Mrs Simpson

4. What name did the Beatles give to the recording company which they established in the late 1960s?

THE perimeter consists of four unclued thematic elements. All answers are entered normally. Across clues contain an extra letter which must be removed before solving, the clue after.

removal being cryptically, though not always grammatically

sound. These extra letters in order give the start of a quotation.

Down answers are defined correctly but cryptic indications lead to the answer with one letter advanced in the alphabet by some value (using A=1 to Z=26 and going "round the end" where necessary). These added values give the completion of

the quotation and its speaker. Apart from some proper names all entries are given by Chambers (1993).

A. Apple B. Sgt Pepper C. Penny Lane

5. Where was Princess Elizabeth, the future British Queen, when she heard of the death of ber father, George VI?

A. Kenya D. Halmoral 6. In what 1955 movie does alien plant life take over a small California town?

A. Invasion of the Body Snatchers B. Tremons C. The Blob 7. Who was the father of Cleo-

petra's son, Ptolemy XV? A. Julius Caesar? B. Mark Antony C. Her brother. Ptolemy

8. Which German-born planist and conductor fled to England in 1848 and settled in Manchester where he founded the celebrated orchestra which bears his name?

C. Spohr 9. What kind of creatures are bass, brill and hake? A. Fish

 Anthony Trollope's mother was a prolific novelist and travel writer. What was her first name?

by Tim Wapshott



Donald Duck is the mascot of which American university?

A. Isabelle B. Frances

II. Which act of 1940 prevented UK employers giving canteen meals in lieu of wages? A. Truck Act B. Factories Act

C. Employment Act

12. Homo sapiens is a scientific name for modern man. What is the meaning of the Latin word saplens?

C. Sane 13. In 1927 an Al Joison film ushered in the era of the talkies. What was it called? A. April Showers B. Sonny Boy C. Jazz Singer

14. Which political leader and founder of the Chinese Communist Party, set out his philosophy in his famous Little Red Book?

A. Deng Xiaoping B. Mao Tse-tung C. Ken Hom

15. Who is the star of the highest-ruled TV talk show? A. Oprah Winfrey B. Michael Parkinson C. Esther Rantzen

16. What country has the most lawyers?

A. United States B. Germany

A. Jack Nicholson B. Michael Keaton C. Joan Rivers 18. How long can a person stand on one

A. 17hr 48 min B. 55hr 35 min C. 102hr 2min

emor of California from 1966-74, and US President from 1981-89? A. John Wayne B. Ronald Reagan

C. Marion Brando 19. What was the name of the last battle

#### No 971

ACROSS

1 Travel: be a success (2.6)

Silly but attractive woman 8 Feet-thrashing torture (9)

9 Obtain (3) 10 Draught animals (4) 11 Exclusive group (6)

13 Openly honest (6) 14 One in minor orders (6) 17 Annul (6)

18 Bargain; cut small piece (4) 20 Charge for service (3) 22 Single-beer pub (4,5)

23 Out of the sun: of dubious legality (5) 24 All-female event (3.5)

DOWN-

1 Launcelot - Shylock's servant (5)

2 Part of horse's foot; -ak, Russian author (7) 3 Reference line (coord. geom.) (4)
4 Make possible (6)

Picture; likeness (5) Temp. bridge; card game (7) Bunch of flowers; aroma (7) 12 Composed, serious manner (7) 13 Muddle up (7)

21 Bloke; crack with dryness (4)

15 Overcome (7) 16 Withdraw (from eg federation) (6) 17 Fragrant-wood conifer (5) 19 Religious devotion (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 970 ACROSS: 2 Pass/over 6 Voodoo 8 Horror 9 Denmark. 10 Avert 12 Lorna Doone 16 One-man band 18 Scone 20 Hostile 21 Exodus 22 Immune 23 Sargasso

DOWN: I Somehow 2 Porridge 3 Slogan 4 Verge 5 Rarity 7 Dominion II Verbatim 13 Oratorio 14 Incline 15 Assess IT Nebula 19 Octour

GIFT IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS. PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY TO EU
CUSTOMERS (REST OF THE WORLD ADD EI PER ITEM). SEND SAE FOR
FURTHER DETAILS. STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY (EI-USS 1.65) —
SPECIAL OFFER EI off any three books purchased. TIMES CROSSWORDS: Books
10.11,13 (A.25 cach. The Trases Couries - Book 2 (40) puzzles [6.25, The Trates TwoBooks 4 & 5 52.25 cach. Abso The Times Quiz Book 1996 (A.75, Crossword Solver's
Books 9 & 6.5 52.55 cach. Abso The Times Rook 1996 (A.75, Crossword Solver's
Books 10.11,13 (A.25 cach. Abso The Times Gook of The Times Crosswords, The Third Book of The Times Juraino Crosswords (Cryptic) 55.25

Innes Crosswords, The Third Book of The Times Juraino Crosswords (Cryptic) 55.25

ILMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Akenhead — Crosswords on
Computer 3.5 diskette (circa 60 crosswords each), lockuding SOLOTEAM facility and
Computer 3.5 diskette (circa 60 crosswords each), lockuding SOLOTEAM facility and
Optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) - Ormalbus edition
optional HELP levels. Includes Times Crosswords (19 titles) -

ACROSS Single fault in American edition (7) A rugby back on line, getting one knockout point for

Harims Scot eyes with insufficient acquaintance (7) Something like a morsel with density and texture (5) They provide protection for my entry into squalid areas pursuing Australian (7)
Could carrier be back in prison nearly after one? (6)

He takes stock of tough screw according to Spooner Born Free's one featured in Movie Institute lesson (7)

Pict worker, rumour has it, is one under age (5) K even sold running shoe to South Africa - more than a scandal! (9)

28. Whisper stammered okay about Starr returning, not Wearing dress with the bared back acquired by limited edition (5)

Corrupt private secretary, forced to retire, wept (7) Uneasily going outside to lay out rope that's close to 33 tearing (7) Take away protection from bone with old probe (6)

One accepting risky political office loses important

Bad luck over street robbery (5)

Enjoy oneself in America with sailor? Whichever way you look at lt, that's fishy (6) Salome dancing gets head off theologian's body (5) Cape forward dives, securing three points (9)

Cooked rare, note, one is a 'bloody' problem (7) Girl, possibly foreign, from Greek city turning

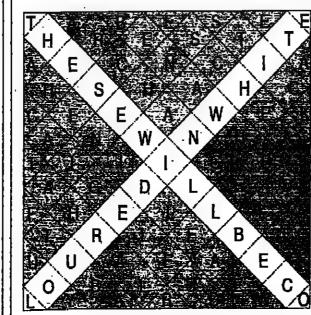
Female shark certainly unknown in America (7) Early saint's country (7)

handgun coming to nothing (7) Drunken Scots in rowing boat having harmonious relationship (7) Tart's client's eccentric man about town (7)

removed (7)

Lightweight material used by lovely drag-artist (5) Macintosh's query as to source as to source of weak musical (5)

35 Lament Australian's presence in pool (5)



Solution to No 3386: Eight Ways by Alcuin

Completed intermediate diagram. Solvers were expected to send a solution with the colours only, no letters showing.

1 Tactful, 2 Archangelic, 3 Besee, 4 Escheat, 5 Stick, 6 Eta. 7 Aha. 8 Nailer. 9 Cher. 10 Wane, 11 Kabele, 12 Aesc, 13 Wight, 14 Hebe, 15 Tahr, 16 Idle, 17 Glad, 18 Blew, 19 Taco, 20 Leu, 21 Faine, 22 Tuba, 23 Elegiac, 24 Ball, 25 Lar, 26 Cid, 27 Yard, 27 You

The winners are J.P. and E.A. Ruff of Eastleigh, The two runners-up are R. Tyler of Exeter and

Mr and Mrs P.C. Hall of Poole, Dorset

#### A. Julius B. Leonard C. Herbert 21. Which 13th century charter granted by King John, was seen as guaranteeing human rights against the excessive use of royal power A. Mappa Mundi B. Magna Carta C. Domesday Book

Battle of York

C. Battle of Agincourt

22. In which fantasy movie does a young

girl wish for her younger brother to be taken away? B. The Neverending Story C. Labyrinth

23. What did Pope Paul III do to Henry VIII and Pope Pius V do to Elizabeth !? A. Honour

Marry C. Japan
17. What joker earned millions from a

C. Excommunicate
24. Donald Duck is the mascor of which

A. Tallahassee State B. Oregon
C. Washington State 25. Which Hollywood actor was Gov-

## THE WATERSTONE'S CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

No 3389: Waterstone's by Ricshaw

#### Impressive! Not many spent recklessly, endlessly (5) Disparate authors have written about this creature

Maiden loses head in statue that's stunted (5) He's brought in to pin a kilim back for Indian (7)

DOWN

Also I secured support for branch destroyed in fire

Avoid work, cutting lawn with this? (5)

Servant's given small amount by custom with little time to finish off chore (9) He has made particular provision for law about

Food shop finding most of fruit decay is able to be

Antique cunningly made with dainty interior is impressive (7) A fool, I did Ring in reverse on first of cycles (6)

WATERSTONE'S CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD No 3389

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Waterstone's Christmas Crossword No 3389, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Friday, January 3, 1997.

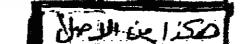


The winner of The Waterstone's Christmas Crossword will receive a £75 voucher and a jeroboam of Moët & Chandon champagne. Five runners-up will each

receive a £10 voncher



Waterstone's Erst opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in virtually every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 522700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstone's, call 0181-742 3800.



CHECK-IN

#### Because we think the world of you ...

COC WHY RELIED (act. bas) \$122 \$165 \$138 \$199 \$159 \$235 \$217 \$256 \$217 \$256 \$256 \$256 \$138 \$234 \$175 \$222 \$248 \$374 \$274 \$457 £264 £385 £333 £556 247 52 HEW YORK 2556 £495 £329 £275 Boston Florida 2319 2014 CAPE TOWN HARARE NAIROBI £333 £229 .5319 LOS ANGELES 9.85 £145 2454 SAN FRANCISCO DUBAI Cairo HOWG KONG 2772 5242 569 £119 £418 £242 1235 2335 £63 £119 TORONTO **AMSTERDAM** 130 Saigon geneva BUROSTAR TO PARIS ON ARGUMENT THE WORLD 259 277 MEDICO CITY

plus discounted quality accommudation per room per night

AUSTRALIA 236 • USA 231 • AFRICA 237 • PACIFIC 242 • ASIA 238 LISA CAR HERE FROM \$12 PER DAY . CALL NOW FOR OUR WORLD OR MORTH AMERICA DIRECTORY ON 0171-938 3939

AS ARREST DE ARREST ON Man Sal Province Dance und Province Sea Confidence



AUSTRALIA FROM £514 RETURN NEW ZEALAND FROM £569 RETURN

Book now for the best fares on quality scheduled airlines



For the rest lowdown on worldwide i, Traillindets is your one stop travel shop. STANDARD OFFICE STANDARD STANDARD

. Experts in address above 1970, we can tailor-make your very kage with up to 65% discoun botels and our him worldwide.

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE

ATOL 1458 WITH ABOX 69781

194 Kensington High Street • LOHDON W8 7RG Long Hauf Flights: G171-938 3939 First & Business Class: G171-938 3444

215 Kensington High Street • LONDON W8 6BD Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5490 42-50 Earls Court Road . LONDON W8 6FT Long Hauf Flights: 0171-936 3366

22-24 The Priory Queensway . BIRMINGHAM 84 68S Worldwide Flights: 0121-236 1234 48 Com Street • BRISTOL BS1 1HQ Worldwide Flights: 0117-929 9000

254-284 Sauchiehali Street • GLASGOW G2 3EH Worldwide Flights: G141-353 2224 58 Deansgale • MANCHESTER M3 2FF Worldwide Flights: 8161-839 6969 Float & Bushman Class: 9161-839 3434

Traillinders does not impose tharges on itedu paids.

GREECE

... people think the world of us!

WINTER SPORTS

PLANNE, Les Aren, Pres Alpa, Ruc Skiling, reliable an

AL D'SERF, St. Foy, apts. Lunas/New Year contact 01778 858300/fax :853

U.K. HOLIDAYS

I. D'ISERE Tignes, 3 Valles Plague, family owned, sig my

ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS

CORNWALL & DEVON

BRITTANY

0181 641 6060

DORSET, HANTS.,

& LO.W.

RELAND

LAKE DISTRICT

LONDON

FRANCE Trot off for some local Noël shopping Paris from 159 Brussels from \$59 Lille from \$49 mm eurostar

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

World

Offers

London

Amsterdam

Genera

Eqq

For these and many other

World Office call to saytime our

0345 222111

Bookby

8th January 97.

ity and uswel periods.

est p.380, year sexual arount or

BRITISH AIRWAYS



NEW YORK £179 BANGKOK £315

#95 ORLANDO #199 #415 PARE #75 #545 PAGUE #159 **10171 494 2333**7

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

DO YOU HOLIDAYS?

Holloays & weekends for Single people You'll never trave Age groups, 30-49 or 50-69

Ring now for a brochure 0181 951 2811

Solos

AFRICA AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA, ZUKBARWE, KENTA, BOTSWANA NAMUNA, TUNZANTA TO LEAD MAKE THE MIRT HOUSES, CAR HIRE 0171 388 6211

CYPRUS with pool 01203 4181 CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS 2 to 2 to 2 to 2 to 2 to 2 to 3 Securities 2 tents, 2 tents on a Virest coast breach. Available for period 21 Jan-10 tels. £1,100pw nturing full maid service. 01625 826851.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

Cruises

from

999

#### REAL HOLIDAYS

The Ramblers' winter and summer brochure offers the widest choice of real helidays imaginable. Walking - easy to tough, cross-country sking, sightseeing with easy walking, treks amongst the world's most beautiful scenery. Great exploring holidays. Small escorted parties, tourist class accommodation enerally with private facilities. Mostly scheduled flights althou some by road to France. Holidays throughout Europe, N & S America, India, China and the Far Fast, Australasia and South Africa and all with our 50 years' experience. Just phone, fax or

CRUISE & SAIL ABROAD

Caribbean

Ramblers Holidays Box 43, Welwyn Garden, ALS 6PQ Tel: 01707 331133 Fax: 01707 333276

AIRPORT PARKING FRANCE BRITTANY South. Mine from beach, 2 scre gardens, supert group of gires, 01924 499220 A LORDA FRANCE

your own private chitesa a or domain, complete wi he own avainating pool, from £39 per person.

NEW - GOLF BREAKS 01235 824324 FRANCE Crystal

SICHLY 015394 31120 ABTA V7333

**FLY HEATHROW** 

TO BRUSSELS

FROM

Call 0800 89 11 99 or contact your local travel agent.

Omerard destinations include Madrid, Barcelona,

Rome, Milan, Vienna, Nice and Copenhagen,

Fares are one way and subject to availability. Excluding air-

MS SEAWING

Trans-Atlantic Crossing

28 nights

£999

 Madeira «Martinique Dominica - Guadeloupe - Antigua

Barbados Trinidad Margarita

· Grenada · St Lucia · Tenerife Standard Inside Cabin DEPARTS 13 JANUARY 1997

BOOK DIRECT NOW ON

SEE TELEPIENT PAGE 258/369

TUSCANY/

CORSTCA

See Italy

ITALY

in comfort Premier Coach Tours 01235 82432475

CRYSTAL **ITALY** 



ANDALUZIA

0171 622 5900.

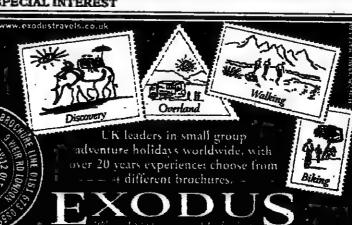
**MEXICO** 0161 832 1441 ontol Groups and Despote Tot 0181 747 8315

Low cost flights 0181 747 3108

VAL

D'ISERE ors & chalets, privately owned, direct rental. Call 0802 652727 or 0933 47941 1700

GREECE

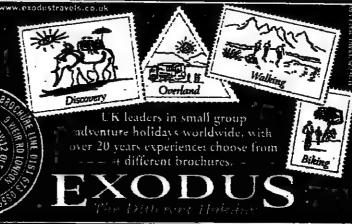


FRANCE

SPECIAL INTEREST

DORSET, HANTS., & LO.W.

SPECIAL INTEREST



**MALTA & GOZO** 

COTSWOLDS

JANUARY SPECIAL

4 Nights from £79
4 Nights from £79
4, Bresidist & Evening Message services haste contributed.
Inflor pool, jacazzi, mess
FREE CAR FERRY

"HEEE CAR FERRY Tel: 01 983 406655

7.34.4.8 4.

CHRISTMAS AND

NEW YEAR.

YORKSHIRE



FRANCE



Sift vouchers £10,£20,£50

FRANCE

Make

it happen

**Airtours** 

SAND ASHEERD

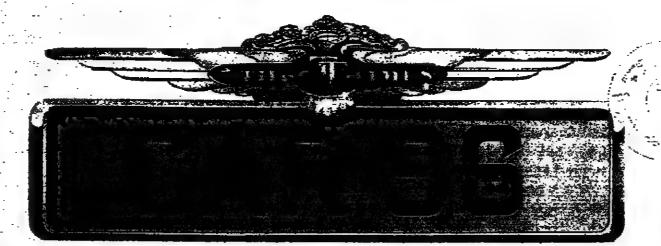
10345 30 30 30

NORTHUMBRIA PEAK DISTRICT SCOTLAND

STREET, MAYE LOR THE STREET



Off-road **Explorer** puts Ford in big league Page 3



Gem restored for a lucky winner

Page 5



**SATURDAY DECEMBER 21 1996** 

# You may as well ask for Rudolph

Kevin Eason on some presents Santa Claus will not leave under many trees this year



Hartley: "Lots of people will be disappointed."

that bulge in your Christmas stocking is only a tangerine. The nearest you are going to get to

when Santa's sack is bare of all the most desirable toys. Pine wistfully for your Mercedes SLK, Porsche Boxster, Jaguar XK8 or MGF because there is none to be had

anywhere in Britain. The SLK has not only sold out, dealers this week were refusing deposits because waiting lists are an average two years. Go to some Mercedes showrooms and a glum salesman will tell you to wait as long as four years, such is worldwide demand for Merce-

des' cute £30,000 sportster. Even if you look for an alternative to the SLK, you will have plenty of time to knit a nice new stocking for the end of your bed because it will be. next Christmas before the waiting lists clear; on most of

the others in the top ten seasonal "wish list": at least a by enthusiasts. And the mostpraised car of the year, the year each for the BMW Z3 and the Porsche Booster, while innovative Lotus Elise, is Jaguar dealers this week were scarcer than a turkey at the January sales. The company is saying they cannot get their hands on any more gorgeous new £50,000 XK8 coupes or only able to make around 1.200 a year at the moment convertibles until October. and they have already been One Porsche dealer says: sold, so executives are warn-"We were taking orders two years ago even before people ing that customers will have to wait 18 months before they see saw the car. There is nothing first sight of that futuristic

we can do because there just aluminium chassis. aren't enough cars to satisfy But if you really are desperate for that last-minute Christ-Even sub-£20,000 vehicles mas gift, you could cheat, are in short supply. Flat bypass Santa and try Tom Coupes, the MGF and the Alfa Hartley instead. Even though GTV are missing from showhe has no elves to help him.

rooms, presumed snapped up Tom has sold eight SLKs four for Christmas presents in the last month at the same time as many Mercedes deal-ers were biting their nails waiting for the delivery of just one car. The premium for beating the four-year queue was £15,000 over list price, but when the cupboards are this bare, some buyers simply will not wait.

Tom will have Boosters in stock before some Porsche dealers, probably at a £5,000 premium over the £19,950 list price, depending on demand, while the first Bentley Continental T - the fastest and probably the most desirable

Bentley yet — will land in his showroom in Overseal, Derbyshire, ready for January ! delivery. Price £228,000, which is £8,000 over list, but Price £228,000, this is the most exotic of the exotic, a model so rare that buyers will scratch your eyes

ot Torn, because he has 15 years' experience in buying and selling the cars that nobody else can find. When the waiting lists build, the desperate turn to Tom, whose contacts range across the country making him mo-toring's Mr Fix-it. If it exists,

he can find it. "People know they can trust me," he says. "I aim to get any car to a customer within a week of the order. If I can't get it, I say straight away. But the deal is always fair and I will be

flexible as much as I can be. "The SLK has been very, very popular and there will be a few ladies waking up on Christmas morning to a nice new sports car. But ordering was so far ahead, lots of people will be disappointed."

If your Christmas gift list has been reduced to a straight choice between socks, a scarf and talcum power or writing

for a four-bedroomed detached, then Santa might still be able to come to your aid.

There are some exclusive cars still available, not bargains exactly and not likely to have their sticker prices slashed in the January sales even if you decide to wait.

What about the last of ten James Young Bentleys which is on sale at H. R. Owen in London, for example? Bad news: it is £190,000. Good news: based on a 150mph Turbo R, the James Young conversion has added a dramatic black pearlescent finish to an equally dramatic black and yellow interior (suitable transport for a millionaire beekeeper, perhaps), with built-in attaché case, umbrella and 40 other goodies to keep you occupied while you drive in the

ultimate flying tank. Or you could try something even more exotic such as the Maserati 300S on sale at the Paradise Garage in London. Stirling Moss said the sixcylinder, 3-litre "Mazzer", first raced in 1956, was the finest sports car he ever drove - and now you can find out what he was talking about. A snip at £500,000 or thereabouts. Oh, go on, Scrooge. Buy it: it's Christmas — and anyway.





Porache Boxester: Earliest 1998. BMW 5-ceries: eight months. . Mercedes E-class: Eight months:

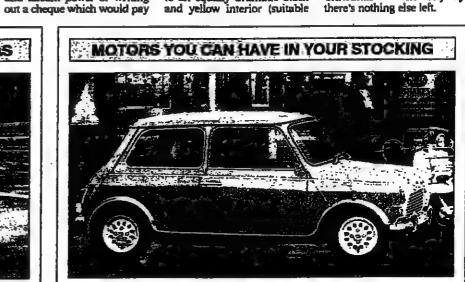
Alta BTV: Five months. Flat Coupé: Four months. MGF: Five months.

NOT AFFORD FOR CHRISTMAS 1900 TU

Bentley Continental T: 9228,000 onc. Fastest Bentley of all with amazing milled aluminium deshipoard and loads of lucury.

perent 300S: £500,000 ono. Super cool at super price. The sports car Stirling

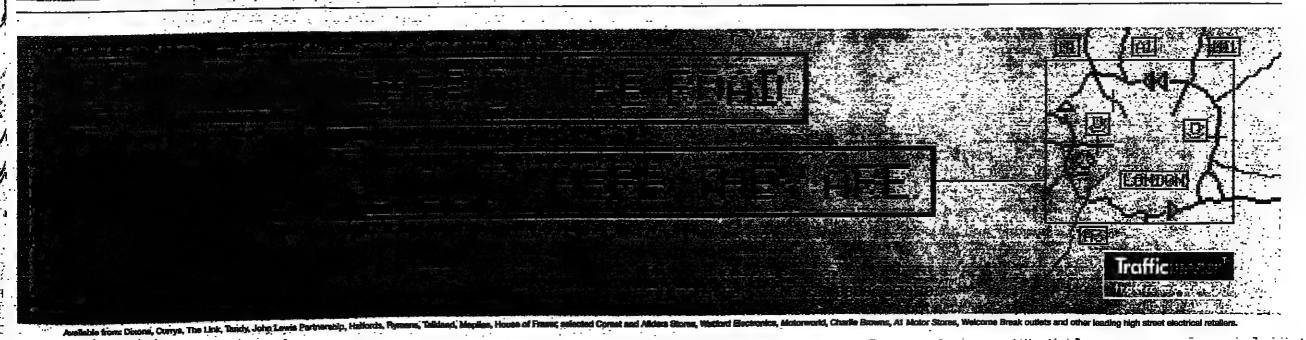
mes Young Bentley: £190,000 onc. Astonishing upgrade on a Turbo R with black and yellow uphoistery and even more gadgets than the production version.



Minit: £9,000 on the road. Best fun you can have with your clothes on this party season. Still lovable, even though middle-age spread has put up the price.

Italjet scooter: £2,500. As ridden by Michael Schumacher around the Formula One paddock. Available in Ferrari red and yellow at H. R. Owen.

Ford Ka: £7,350. Ka to make you go "Ahh". Cutesy-pie looks and roomy intenor. And you could be first to get one, so place orders now



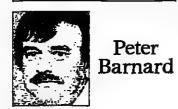
Verily, the man named Call Me Nico was of the place of the Bush of the Shepherd, and the wise men rejoiced because it was not sarf of the river

# Unto us a Datsun shall be borne

nd it came to pass that three wise men stumbled into the night after a few flagons at the Oriental Club opposite Bond Street Tube station. They did not get into their cars because that would have made them three foolish men. Instead, they began hailing black cabs, some of which stopped but none of which was prepared to travel sarf of the river. Guv.

So often was this reason advanced in the next half hour that one of the wise men, being from out of town, asked why no one had told him that the Thames had changed its name to the River Guy. The other wise men thought this so amusing that they fell about the pavement, causing the next convoy of cab drivers to switch off their For Hire signs as they approached. The three men steadied them-

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



selves and resumed hailing. An aged Datsun stopped a few yards away, the driver got out and approached the three wise men: Thirty pund, I take anywhere you. Be hopping in." The driver, whose name seemed to be Call Me Nico, opened one of the car's rear

doors with a wrench (or rather, he took out a wrench in order to open one of the car's rear doors) and the wise men entered to a smell of apple blossom air freshener so powerful it almost overcame the stench of mildew from the greying fleece lining the rear parcel shelf.

"Where you go?" Call Me Nico said, and the wisest of the men replied: "Follow that star." Call Me Nico peered through his windscreen looking for Madonna or Bobby Charlton, two of the few stars whose names had permeated the Bosnian hills whence he came. Identifying neither, he shrugged and headed west, past Harrods and towards the Cromwell Road. Two of the wise men had their heads out of the rear windows, gazing at the sky. The English, Call Me Nico thought: drink, throw up, drink, throw up, is all ever they do.



By a miracle so appropriate at this time of year, Call Me Nico and the star were heading in the same direction. Two of the wise men congratulated the driver on this feat, but Call Me Nico heard nothing above the engine roar: he had removed the rear silencer to make three saucepans so that his wife could cook food.

Nothing much happened until Call Me Nico drove the wrong way round the Chiswick roundabout and set off down the right-hand carriageway of the M4, flashing his lights and shouting "Crazy bastards!" at oncoming cars. The wise men were alarmed, but Call Me Nico found his way to the hard shoulder, which seemed deserted.

He even managed to get into the wrong side of Heston Services without killing anyone, despite his excitement: "Heston Charlton! Heston Charlton! See, I find star, I find star! How much up you me?" In a merciful silence at the Heston car park, the wise men explained to Call Me Nico that the star they sought was in the sky. "In

**# LONDON** 

sky is costing more, "Call Me Nico said. No, the wise men said, the star is in the sky, but the child we seek is on the ground. A new king is born today and we have brought him gifts of gold, frankincense and a plastic thing from Toys R Us that plays Jingle Bells (batteries not included).

One of the wise men was gazing at the sky through a telescope, but the huge lights of the motorway and the approaching dawn had combined to render the star nearinvisible, though now it seemed to be behind them, over west London. The wise men were glum. Call Me Nico shuffled his feet. "I got to go." he announced. "Home to Shep-herd's Bush. Wife she have baby,

minute any." The wise men lacked the heart for more lurching about in the Datsun. They handed Call Me Nico £30 and walked towards the restaurant, needing coffee. But the wisest of the men stopped and turned on the others: "Call Me turned on the others: Nico said his wife . . .

They found the driver of a black cab, taking a break on the way back from Heathrow, "Where to, Guv?" he said. And the wise men replied: "Just follow that Datsun." Shepherd's Bush wasn't sarf of the river, thank God.

#### Waiting for your insurer's go-ahead could soon be a thing of the past, says Vaughan Freeman

ROYAL INSURANCE DIRECT REGIONAL ROAD ACCIDENT 4.12 4.46 4.47 4.32 4.23 4.23 4.13 4.17 2.99 2.86 3.86 3.86 3.81 3.81 3.81 3.81 3.76 3.76 - Warwickshir 12 Essex . 13 Clwyd 14 Hampshire 18 Humberside. Witshire ... Bucks

mong the last things you want for Christ-mus is a dent. The wing is crumpled shopping mall and the holidays loom, probably meaning weeks of delay before an insurance assessor gets within 20 miles of your vital daily transport.

But an ingenious new advance that turns every local garage mechanic and panel beater into a camera-equipped Steven Spielberg is slashing the time it takes for cars to be repaired, cutting costs and reducing inconvenience. Instead of waiting for an assessor to turn out, garages simply video the car so insurers can study the damage on screen. It means instant assessment so that any repairs can go ahead immediately.

Most insurance companies insist that a damage ussessment engineer views the car before work begins on a repair. The assessor determines what has happened. which parts need to be replaced or repaired and whether it might be cheaper to write the vehicle off as scrap.

It is a highly skilled job which takes time, often a couple of days delay. But without that assessment, motorists who give the go-ahead for repairs do so at their peril for the assessor might decide later that the car is not worth repairing or the work should have been done for less Now VELO, a Marlow-

based accident management

DESPITE ITS £440,000 PRIETA

THE JACHUAR XJ 220 KK &

AN ENGINE DERIVED FROM

A RALLIVING YERSION ...

OF THE MINI METRO ...

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long

accurate idea of what they are

dealing with. Today, most insurance companies will give the go-shead without feeling it necessary to send out an assessing engineer for repairs likely to incur a labour charge of under £250, which will probably result in a total bill of about £625. With

N THE WORLD TO MASS

DEVELOPING THE S40 TOOK

HIND NEARLY NINE MILLION

PRODUCE AMERIET, BUILDING

NEARLY 200 TRIMOTOR

the VELO system though, repairs which the garage initially estimates might cost anything up to £750 in labour, which would on average lead to a total repair bill of around £1.875, can be agreed over the

So instead of waiting up to 48 hours for an assessor, who

charges between £30 and £40, most repairs can be authorised immediately. This mean the insurance company does not have to face the extra cost of two days' worth of car hire to cover while the damaged

every repair estimated to cost more than £250 in labour needed an on-site visit by an assessor. Now, says Phil York. VELO's marketing manager:: Where we have been able to give the go-ahead to repairs where the labour charge is in the \$250 to \$500 bracket, we have been able to do away with two-thirds of the inspections of the on-site engineer's

assessments.

A406 East Finchley. Traffic down to a single lane on the nown to a single rane on the North Circular road be-tween Henley's corner (A1 Falloden Way) and Finch-ley High Road. A406 Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks on Angel Road (North Circular Road) over the Lea Valley Viaduct to add lanes, flyovers and

tunnels. A3 Kingston, Northbound lane closure on the Kingston

Bypass between Shannon Corner (A298) and Coombe Lane junction (A238) for work on Carters Bridge. A3212 Westminster. Bridge Street and Victoria Embank ment closed 9pm-8am at weekends in places bets Parliament Square and Westminster Bridge. A224 Seint Mary Cray. Lane closed on Sevenoaks

Way for sewer construction work on Lessons Hill. SOUTH-EAST e SOUTH-EAST
A4 Reading, Berkshire,
Restrictions and larne closures
for widening work between
the Hogarth Roundabout and
Burfield Road.
A329M Reading, Berkshire.
One lane closed in both directions from 10am-3pm over
the M4 at junction 10, between
Reading and Wokingham. ading and Wokingham.

(10pm-6am) meintenance work on the Brighton By-pess between Hengleton tion and Ditchling Road Bridge. A23 Patcham, East Susser Lane closed on the slip roads, with various other local

restrictions in place. M27 Hampshire. Long-term roadworks with a contratiow in place between Southampton East and Fareham. M25 Surrey, Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Godstone and the A3 as major widening work continues along the 18-mile stretch.

A3 Surrey. Hogs Back (A31), long-term roadworks at Stag Hill flyover. Various restrictions in place. SOUTH-WEST
 A390 Treliske Roundabout, due to construction work. dian Queens and Bodmin Comwall. Temporary lights for resurfacing work. A35 Barrack Road, Christchurch, Dorset. Lane closed in both directions for work on

M5 Gloucestershire. Major roadworks with only one lane open at roundabout junction with A419. M5 Gloucestershire, Road works for construction of a new road layout on the junction roundabout at J17

a new roundabout

Contrallow across Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mph limit. Swindon, Wiltshire. Construction work on Fleming Way with restrictions be-tween the Magic Roundabout and Whalebridge.

MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA A6 Lockington, Lekester-shire. Contrallow from just north of M1 J24 to Sev Island, with no right turn into Domington Lane. A52 near Grantham, Nottinghamshire. Temporary lights over Nottingern Road bridge. Diversions via B1174 and A607. A500 Staffordshire. Contraflow on D-road between

NORTH M6 Cheshira. Reduced to three narrow lanes by the widerling work near Thelwall Viaduct. 46 Cumbria, Contration tions and 50mph limit be-tween J37 (Kendal) and J38

Talke and Stoke-on-Trent.

(Tebay). A62 Chadderton, Greater Manchester. M66 construction work on Oldham Road at. unction with Hollinwood

Avenue. A59 Much Hoole, Lan-Liverpool Road causing major hold-ups heading to and from Preston. M1 West Yorkshire, Major around the Leeds lunction with lane and speed restrictions. Expect delays on M1, M621 and Dewabury Road.

WALES A482 Aberaeron, Ceredigion, Upper Aberaeron Bridge on South Road closed for reconstruction work. Diversions via Panteg Road and the A487.
A470 north of Cein Coed,
Merthyr Tydfil. Temporary
lights on Brecon road for major works. 40mph on A465 at Ceth Coed with temp lights on Aberdare Road. M4 Monmouthshire. Lane closures between the Magor and Newport junctions. M4 Swansea, Carriagev reduced to one lane in both directions for roadworks ten Swansen and Lianelli. A472 Pontypool, Toriaen. Contrallow between Pontymoile and Heron

**e** SCOTLAND M8 Edinburgh, Junction 2 Newbridge Spur (M9). Major roadworks, with lane closures on the roundabout. A9 Greenloaning, Perth & Kinross. Contraflow four miles east of Dunkeld. A898 Erskine Bridge, Renfrewshire. Bridge only open to car and light vehicles. Di-versions for HGVs.



## The image on the hand-held camcorder can be transmitted to a screen hundreds of miles away (below) for expert assessors to make their decision Distance no object when you want to stake a claim

company handling 50,000 company cars, has introduced "VideoLink" to cope with 3,000 or so insurance claims a month, many involving acci-

dent damage. All 100 or so approved VELO repair centres are now equipped with hand-held camcorders. As soon as a car is brought in, a mechanic views the damaged areas with the video camara.

The information is then sent electronically via a BT telephone line and a modern link, to VELO's offices. Within two hours of a car arriving at a garage, a video image appears on a computer screen, together with the garage's estimate for repairing the damage

Engineers at VELO can then view the damaged car as if they were standing in front of it and make an instant and informed decision on whether the estimate is correct, or if the damage needs closer inspection on site. They can discuss the car with the garage, and if necessary order up different video images to get a more



phone.

vehicle is out of action. Before VideoLink; almost

Steve Greene, one of the onscreen engineers, says: "Before, unless we sent an engineer in, we had to pretty much take the garage's estimate on trust. Now we can get much more detail, and are

if the car is hundreds of miles away, whether a part needs to be replaced or if a cheaper repair will work just as well and so save the cost of a part."

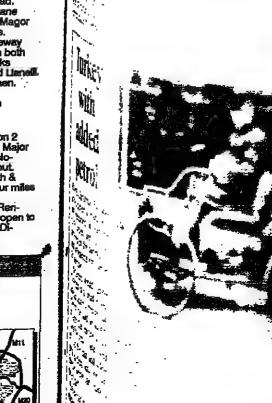
n addition to streamlin-

ing the whole operation. the system ensures that any owners able to convince their garage to give the car a total respray while a dented wing is sorted, or repair half-a-dozen parking bumps while genuine crash damage is repaired, will no longer be able to slide such tricks past the insurance firm. VideoLink works in conjunction with VELO's [1 million computerised insurance processing system, known as ClaimFlow. The system, the

most advanced of its kind in Europe, virtually eradicates the 30 to 300 or so bits of paper that attach to each claim. From the moment a motorist calls with details of the damage to their car, to the moment a claim form or damage estimate is sent out, not a pen or bit of paper is touched.

The ClaimFlow computers write letters instantly, keep files up to date and the 1,500 pages of documentation that arrive each day in the mail are electronically scanned in so. that all files can be viewed on computer screen rather than a grubby piece of paper.

The bits of paper are still stored in case they are needed should the claims come to court; but VELO believes that killing off the Dickensian image of insurance firms labouring on parchment with quill pens is the way to ensure competitive insurance premiums and improved customer



Explorer fi



Explorer: after the unremarkable Maverick, what Ford executives have had to ask themselves is whether Britain really can take yet another competitor in the 4x4 market

# Explorer finally finds Britain

t is the world's best-selling off-roader — but has taken six years to reach Britain. Ford has sold more than 2 million of its Explorer 4x4 vehicles in 60 countries since it was launched. America had the first vehicles in 1990, and Europe has had the Explorer in its showrooms for the past three years.

Now Britain gets the chance to sample the 4x4. which will be the biggest off-roader with the most powerful V6 4x4 engine on sale in this country, dwarfing even the Range Rover - although not in the price department.

Ford says Britain has had to wait because of the high cost of tailoring a US-built vehicle to a market with different requirements — and the steering wheel on the "wrong" side. Converting the Explorer to righthand drive, developing the most powerful V6 engine in its class and designing the world's first five-speed automatic gearbox for an off-roader required lots of time and money.

Cynics prefer to believe the wait had more to do with Ford having its fingers burnt by its first venture into the 4x4 marker in Europe with the unremarkable Maverick, a joint ven-

7

Maria actività

ture with Nissan. Nissan builds its own Terrano and the Maverick on the same production line, but neither has captured the imagination like Land Rover's Discovery.

Now Ford faces the prospect of 4x4 buyers who want a blue oval on the bonnet upgrading from top-end Mavericks to the Explorer. Spend an extra £4,420 and 4x4 drivers can step up from the top 2.7-litre turbo-diesel Maverick with five doors to the £25,870 Explorer, which has just as much equipment - air-conditioning, twin front airbags and anti-lock brakes --- as well as a more powerful engine, more space and a new five-

speed automatic transmission. Ford says the two off-roaders are aimed at different markets: the Maverick younger, the Explorer wealthier. To help define the differences, the Maverick has been relaunched with one trim level only so that Ford's 4x4 line-up ranges from the Maverick GLS (two engine options, 24 petrol or 27 diesel in three or five-door versions) and the Explorer (4-litre V6

and five-door only).
Where the advertising campaign for the Maverick has been loud and lively and aimed at potentially your-

tainment, Ford plans on being more methodical with the Explorer.

"Although Ford is a big off-road name in the United States, we need to strengthen our 4x4 credentials in Britain before we can go stampeding into the UK off-road market," explains Nav Sidhu at Ford.

The company will sell just 2,500 Explorers in 1997 to help develop a level of exclusivity and maintain reasonable resale values. To draw the contrast, Ford sells up to 5,000 Mavericks a year - but second-hand values can drop as much as £5,000 in just six months.

What Ford executives have had to ask themselves is whether Britain really can take yet another competitor in the market. Dealer forecourts are already jammed with nearly new offroaders and second-hand prices are showing evidence of oversupply.

Determined that the Explorer will not suffer a similar downfall, Ford has established a network of 160 dealers dedicated to selling what it hopes will become a fashionable niche model. Developed from new and existing dealerships the "sports coupe and off-road specialist dealers"

ger buyers who want off-road enter- will sell the Ford Probe and Maverick alongside the new Explorer.

The Explorer faces tough competition — not least of all from its herce US adversary, the Jeep Grand Cherokee. Until now, Jeep has had the monopoly on American 4x4 sales this side of the Atlantic but battle is about to commence in this country between the arch rivals.

nlike the popular Grand Cherokee, the Explorer displays several less than endearing American characteristics: the chiming door-open warning signal that cannot be switched off, its fiddly key-operated fuel filler and its garish looks are letdowns. And it's huge bulk might prove a problem for some drivers on our tight and twisty roads. Bigger than a Range Rover, bulkier than a

Forget bulk though: the sticker price is what matters and the Explorer's £25,870 makes the Jeep Grand Cherokee's £29,550 look steep. the Land Rover Discovery's £30,690 look crazy, the Mitsubishi Shogun's £37,590 outrageous and the Range Rover's £39,715 seem ludicrous.

But there are some drawbacks, one of which is the humdrum blue oval badge. No self-respecting member of the "green wellie" brigade would be seen driving a Ford off-roader, which explains Ford's worries about the company gaining the right credentials. In a market which profits from a high degree of snobbery, Ford might have its work cut out to win

customers. Despite costing nearly £14,000 less than a Range Rover 4.0 V8 SE, the Ford Explorer improves on the "master of off-roaders" with electric front seats, automatic transmission, electric sunroof, a more spacious boot and is a whole second swifter in a 0-60mph sprint. Nevertheless, many Range Rover owners are unlikely to convert, even if the Explorer is the world's best selling 4x4.

The competition - and what they cast: Land Rover Discovery (£19,765 to £30,690). Vauchall Frontera (£15,470 to £20,470); Toyota RAV 4 (£14.269 to £17.261) Mitsubishi Shogun (£19,960 to £37,590); (Range Rover (£35,130 to £47,765); Suzuki Vitara (£10,920 to £16,200); Jeep Cherokei (£17,550 to £24,850); Jeep Grand Cherokee (£29,550 to £30,550); Nissan Terrano (£17,600 to £23,100); Ford Maverick (£17,650 to £21,450)

# Very heavy, but you get a lot of car for the price

While not

exactly

agile,

it still

feels

secure

oing its rock-climbing party trick in a quarry somewhere in Scotland, the Ford Explorer had me grinning from ear to ear and my wife praying for terra firms. Nose-diving a preci-pice, it struck me that anyone with a penchant for big, butch off-roaders will love this larger-than-life American import. My first reaction to the Explorer was that it felt cum-

bersome, agitated and slow. its on-road performance is no better than that of a Ford Mondeo 1.8 costing over £10,000 less. Handling and agility is nothing like so good. But that's the way it is with heavyweight off-roaders. If you want a vehicle that scram-bles irresistibly on the rough

stuff, you cannot expect it to feel like n accomplished family saloon on smooth tarmac. Off-roaders

seem at last to have saturated the urban jungle. After a decade of spectacular growth, the 4x4 peaked if this ear's sales, slightly down on 1995's at around 88.000.

are a guide. Even with the market in decline, though. Ford reckons it should have a larger slice of the action. After the success of Chrys-

ler's Jeep Cherokee, Ford was expected to promote the Explorer's "Made in the US" label. It won't Instead, it will focus on a highly competitive price of around £25,000. For this, you get a whopping five-door, five-seater, a 4.0-litre V6 engine and five-speed automatic transmission. Standard equipment includes anti-lock brakes, two airbags, powered seats, air conditioning, cruise control, even a digital compass. There are no manual or diesel alternatives. What you see here is what's on offer at 160 specialist Ford dealers.

Slotting in above the Mayerick (a junior sibling by a different marriage), the chrome-wheeled, balloontyred Explorer - at 188.5 ins. it's longer than a Range Rover - is a big. handsome vehicle

scats that cosset as well as they embrace.

Legroom in the back is generous, luggage accommo-dation colossal. A doubleacting handle releases either the rear window or the tailgate, unencumbered by a hanging spare wheel As when loading, so when clam-bering in and out, it's all too easy to soil your clothes on muddy sills.

By off-roader standards, the Explorer puts on a lusty display of muscle, its 206 brake horse power engine (made in Germany) giving lively acceleration. In overdrive top - which can be cancelled - the Explorer is

exceptionally long-legged and quiet. Reasonably eco-nomical, loo. The earbox (made in France) shifts seamlessly, but the stiff selector, short on positions, discourages manual over-ride. Low-ratio drive is selected by a dash-mounted knob, eliminating the need for a sec-

ond gear lever. Big and heavy though it is, the two-ton Explorer does not feel awkwardly large on the road - except when parking. Even then, it's quite easy to manoeuvre. I liked the weighty feel of the all-disc brakes, but anyone used to a light touch may find them

disconcertingly heavy. Tough but primitive sus-pension denies the Explorer a smooth ride, though you do get used to the choppy motion. If not exactly agile, the car feels secure and sure-footed when hustled through wet corners. On clean Scottish tarmac, the big tyres gripped with a tenacity I suspect they would lack on emulsified

surfaces further south. If the Explorer can impress an off-roader sceptic like me, Ford will have no trouble selling its quota of 2,500. I can see prices of the opposition -Cherokee, Monterey, Discovery, Range Rover, Shogun -being cut just to compete.

#### EXPLORER

Engine: Four-litre V6 delivering about 206hhp through a five-speed automatic transmission with four-wheel drive. Performance: 0-60mph in 10.9 seconds, top speed 106mph; fuel consumption, urban cycle 15.5mpg, extra urban 25.4mpg, combined 20.6mpg. Size: Length 4,789mm; height 1,730mm; width 1,950mm. Equipment: Anti-lock brakes, twin airbags.

### Turkey with added petrol

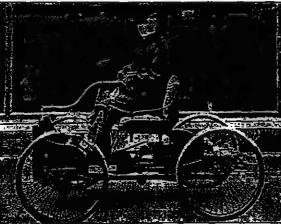
IT WAS Christmas Eve. and in the kitchen a young wife was preparing to stuff the turkey when her husband appeared in the doorway and not bearing gifts, writes lan Morton.

Staggering slightly under the weight of a small engine and balancing a reeking can of petrol, he said he wanted to clamp the engine to the side of the sink - and could she hold the can and allow petrol to drip into the car-burctior while he cranked the engine?

Unficesitatingly, she scooped up the turkey and stuffing ingredients, then did as he had asked. Finally the engine sphuttered into life. It ran for 55 seconds her husband timed it and noted it exactly.

He pronounced himself highly satisfied, unclamped the engine and carried it triumphantly off to his workshop in the shed behind the house, leaving his wife in a haze of exhaust to scrub the sink area clean of oil and petrol traces before getting on with the Christmas dinner. An understanding lady willing and able to share her man's enthusiasms, or a sadly downtrodden and fearful woman builtied by a preoccupied

and arrogant husband? Surely the former, for this



Driven man: Henry Ford on his first quadricyle

the scene was the kitchen of a rented house in Bagley Avenue, Detroit, the wife was the recently married Clara Bryant Ford and her husband the 28-year-old Henry, one of many hopefuls working round the dock in the city of automotive dreams to grab their share of the rewards as the era of mechanical mobility

took shape around them. The story of the Christmas Eve kitchen sink engine test has been related proudly by the couple's great granddaughters. Anna and Charlotte Ford. They never saw Clara as anything other than a patient and devoted wife whose unquestioned duty, was to stand by her man in the best traditions of

the American pioneers In fact Clara's willing forebearance would prove to be nothing less than a keystone in the foundations of today's feminist free doms, according to Anna

and Charlotte. "By placing herself secwifely patience on Christond she would enable those

of us coming after to be first," they said in a book about the Ford family. "The automobile has had an enormous effect on our society. Especially it has beiped to liberate the modern woman. It did for women socially what the franchise did for women politically. The motor car gave us freedom and independence."

HENRY certainly did not regard his wife as downtrodden. Indeed his nickname for her was The Believer. because she had faith in him and encouraged him when everyone else was deriding On a number of occasions

he publicly acknowledged the debt he owed to her unswerving support, and they must have respected each other because they lived together for 49 years. The world of motoring probably owes more than might be imagined to young Clara Bryant Ford and her

## The ultimate happy family man hen you sit around the table over the holidays determined

What was your first car?

An Austin Seven Special which I bought after selling my father's Austin Ten for £95. A local garage had offered him £60 for it and he told me I could keep anything I made in excess of that.

I love for its classic line and timeless shape as well as for that combination of effortless travel and silent progress. I am at a loss as to why anyone would choose a BMW or Mercedes-Benz over the homegrown product. I also have three classic Jaguars which share the same splendid XK engine - two XK120s, one of which is a special lightweight model, and an XK140 - and a similar to the ones our com-

What is your most hated car?

How did you first learn

On quiet country roads in Cornwall during our annual family holiday when I was 15 and then later, during the 1956 Suez Crisis, driving unaccompanied which learners were

still permitted to do.

to amuse a squad of increas-

ingly fractious children, you should think of the Jaques

For they invented the board

games which have become a

stable ingredient in the diet of

Christmas entertainment.

has passed the baton for six

generations, so it is only fitting

that John Jaques and Son is the company which invented Happy Families.

More than 200 years in the

business (during which time they also created Snakes and

Ladders, Tiddly-winks and

Ludo) more than justifies the

Jaques' claim to be the world's

oldest games makers. Today

the company is equally well

known for its sports equip-

ment, which includes the ta-

bie-tennis tables (a Jaques

introduced Ping-Pong to Brit-

ain in 1890) and champion-

In fact it was another

Jagues, John II who in 1851 at

the Great Exhibition first

brought croquet to England.

Like the rest of the family, his

great-grandson Christopher is

himself no mean mallet, but it

is cars that arouse his passion,

especially for the older

Jaguars.

to drive?

ship-level croquet sets.

family, writes David Long.

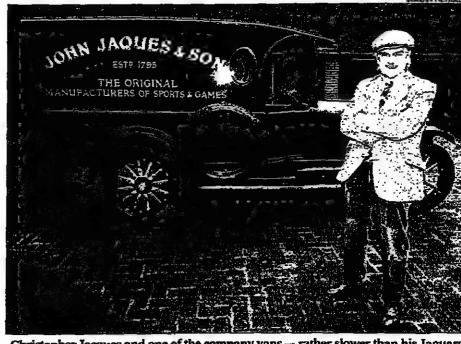
What car do you drive now, and why? A Jaguar XJ6 Series III which

1926 Dodge 15cwt box van pany used between the wars.

I would never buy a Ford. When I was young, they were cheap and not built to last and this memory has remained with me, even though things may have changed recently.

What is your dream car?

A D-type Jaguar. The sight of these cars being raced by Mike Hawthorn, Tony Brooks and Stirling Moss is etched on my mind. They looked like aircraft on wheels.



Christopher Jacques and one of the company vans - rather slower than his Jaguars

What is your worst habit in the oar?

Rudely pushing out of junctions into a stream of traffic vhich will not let me in.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Centre-lane cruisers on the motorway and crawlers around the country roads of Sussex where I live.

at 125mph down the Mulsanne also Radio 5 for sport.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in

**VOUT CAT?** Mostly Radio 4, occasionally
Driving my lightweight XK120 John Dunn on Radio 2 and

Straight to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Jaguar's 1951 Le Mans win, and last month I took a 1903 Panhard underneath Constitution Arch at Hyde Park Corner. The route through is usually closed to

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Who hasn't! Yes, all for speed-

ing through traps and so on.

What do you listen to in

your car?

If you were the Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Make local authorities ban petrol and diesel vehicles from iown centres during certain times, introduce compulsory schemes for out-of-town parking and take steps to improve public transport.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The ones for the Renault Clio, although I do not spend much time watching television and suspect that were I to do so repetition would render even these unwatchable.

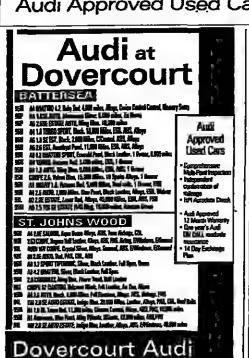
**AUDI APPROVED** 

## If you've bought a used Audi and want to turn back the clock, please do.

Contact us to find out more about our 14 day exchange plan.

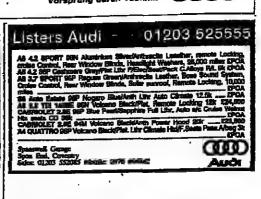
Audi Approved Used Cars 0345 55 22 66

Audi ()()



···	<del></del>	
Chevin (1990)		
14 Spec, 39.	19 412 pains, Japan Lorber, Mins 1901	📕 Free nationwide
	W ADMITTHE Academ Cont	delivery
Mariner Marine	MALE TO MAKE THE MAKE THE MAKE THE POPULATION OF	Вотругененская
	W Mine 15 Wind Labor Class	Mult. point
LANG Trimen, ER. EC., 76 1988 125 Element St. Roy, 25. 1988	. 15) Al C. questro, Lester, Comp Hoys, Conse Control + More	raspestiçii 1
	12 Calculation the Peal Leafer From Real Value Alex _#No.	independent
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	19 14 to Carried Manager Print Life Sent Along Reins 1745	confirmation
	15% Za Sanel Calculat, Research Princet Late, Valuat, 1176-11.	bž mišeage
	551 265 Speed Calminists, Real Tales, Recolours work, On Second Comp. 179,95	<ul> <li>संस्थितसम्बद्धाः</li> </ul>
FERRINGISE, EX, Later, \$5.	1901 245 Speel Calmide, Jacqueri Sates, 16 Spotes Albres	check
ATO Strangel, IX 1286	FIL 23 Cabriele Last Red. RES. AUS	Aud: approxes
Light State of the Committee of the Comm	150 Martin Spect, Asses Black Loube, Classes, Comp. 48-re, Silvel, _20155	12 mosth
	M #3 he feet An Ang	Warranty 🦣
7月20年代2月18日   15日   15日	60 At LET Speet, Black and Comp Alice	<ul> <li>Audi readdigží-</li> </ul>
220 (Cipal Stor, 150, Stor State,	で、 はは、 fester Mext (Text: Carpet ) Annual	essistance
【例文 5700 の元式は1200人的以下 7000	红 横连 编译 振荡 贝斯	14 day
	100 At Till S-Servel, Bally Red, Autor, ASS, Serveral, Alarm	exchange glad
OTHER MAKES	SE. 8124 Each, Values Back E-Visitors, Septor 511.95	garage ga
学 14 5 位 F Cajas (日本) 15 日本	M. MISTOTE LEE Alors Second All	
Mary Colper, Louise, Phys.	9K W.11 E. Shared Stor. Albert 4K PK	Audi
per (1941   1956		
<b>阿加州</b> 克尔斯克 巴克巴克 阿克斯克	. 🔩 H.R. Owen Ai	udi 🔭
DEMONSTRATORS	Phylenal House, Edgin ite Novo, Coloidale.	
137900 May had 1906 1	Telephone: 0181 20	05 5050
LET IS IN Alaskin Sky (70)	,	
Frank Whitele Board of the same		
by DE21 48E 22 - 341818		

Northfield Aug	11
91 J 80 Sport 16V. Red, alloys	55 95 N A4 1.8 SE Saloce. Walner. 9 51 95 N A6 2.6 Estate Anto, Alloys, 18 52 P A4 1.9 TD: SE Antomatic upholysery, valuat fuscia 19 54 P Cabrioles 2.6. Amazon Grate 19 55 P A6 2.5 TD: SE 140 blap leather, walnet fuscia, critise cont
Gloucs GL8 8HN	Aut
FRANKIN AUGI	follow the S  sem as 0.5 to . Se sor



CALL: 0410 303669	
Addustro was the company of bear Political	* * M.
Ad Cuettre	
Al Continu	
Harristan at the second second	
To the state of th	
Acton Green Audi	COOC
01753 696100 Berts \$1.148	CATA
	Aston Green Audi



Phone 0113 292 5555



BMW

**525 TDS** 222,560.

ASE 91 H. white with black E22.750 01543 41 17447 Tel: 01730 88:215. 0658 504) 18

■ Fast, friendly, direct service.
■ No fuss, no middlemen.
■ High quality Instant Cover, Bonus Protection, 24 Hour Accident Recovery, Free Courtesy Car, Authorised Repeir Network.
■ Instalment Option. (Full written details.)

Collect. Cash waiting, 07 277367, 0860 541639 T

Stephen James Friendly Advice or 0181 367 2626 ALFA ROMEO

ACCESSORIES weissenfels 161: 01/32 884408

BOATING

& YACHTING

RIVA 50 SA

Berthed Spain.

Low hours, ex cond

€200K will accept

of quality cars in ofer.

Tel: 01728 723373

ROVER V8

1971 Anto. Pas.

Immaculate. A gem. 6.000 miles stock £7,000

econditioning. I owner. Complete history and

Tel. 01873 860255

cour made, hard top, house duck time, black the 15,000m. 645,000. Tel:01:296 630643/ 0631 878027.

EXECUTIVE CARS

PRESTIGIOUS

CAR RENTAL

Chaulieur Driven Care Vehicles for New & LOW, LOW PRICES

St deats for Long Term Hist Language Core Inches

DELVERY IN LONDO

0181-802 9430

MOT. £3,500.

**CLASSIC CARS** 

MONDIAL 91439 424140

FERRARI

1988, 28,000 miles, PSH & interior. £42,500. Tel. 01213 577477 (o) 01954 232194 (h) MITSUBISHI

SHOGUM LWS TO: 28 D/O

328GTS

308 GTSi £28,650. GREAT CONDITION.

LEFT HAND DRIVE

**BMW AUTHORISED** DEALERS

# **BMW AUTHORISED DEALERS (NOW ON-LINE)**

For an Approved Used Car brochure and details of your nearest dealer call 0800 325600 or E-Mail via the BMW UK Web site http://www.bmw.co.uk BINN NEWFORD USED CARS HER "LALL-PILE CALLA FROM BINN AND HOUSED I SHA FREMPS. A SELECTION OF MACH HER SHOWN LEGICIA



LEXUS

OUPES available direct from Japan Right-hand drive V3 and 2.5 Twin Turbo models in a

203 3399/0161 764 8981.

LEXUS AUTHORISED

Farmer and Carlisle

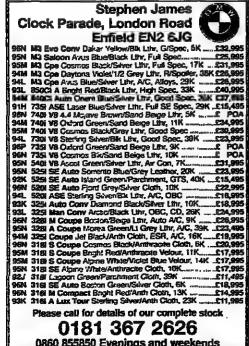
Loughborough

GS300 '83L, Bordeszor, 42,000

**ZUEXUS** 

MAZDA

MG



0860 855850 Evenings and weekends Wollaston 😘 95H 840 ei Auto StEast red, bisch leather, x boll alloys . . 93K SZÉ brillard system system i DTL 193K SZÉ brillard system system i DTL 193K SZÉ brillard system system i DTL 193L SZÉ brillard system system i SZÉ brillard system system i SZÉ brillard system system i Brillard system i SZÉ brillard system system i Brillard sys 931. 518) SE malches due 931. 518; SE matches; Due
93P M3 Compe Evolution datar yelon, AC, ESR, R/SP Dd Spotes. IPAA.
96M M3 Compe Evolution estad time, etom, ing albys, R/SP, ESR ... 204,995
96M M3 Comperable, datar yelon, black leather, black book ... 235,995
96M 32M Sport Coupe alpine white, black basher, ASC&T, ESR ... 229,995
96M 32M Sport Coupe alpine white, black leather, ASC&T, ESR ... 229,995
96M 32M Sport Coupe alpine white, black brank leather scheduler sp. ESR ... 229,995 

Contact Used Car Specialists:

ian MacDonald / Gary Loakes

(01504) 232000

After hours: 0802 618364



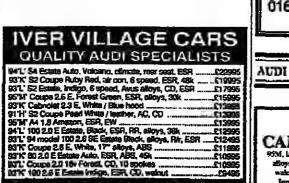
96P 840tA Arctic Silver, Alpina Alloys... 95M 740i Ascol Green, 22K ... 92K 525i Spt Granits, Air Con. D/Chrome, 53K ..£14,995 95N 520 SE Oxford Green, A/C, Alloys, 14K ......£18,995 96P M3 Conv Baston Green, H/Top, A/C..... 96P 328 A Coupe Morea Green, A/C, Ex-Demo £ POA 96N 328I Comv Montreal Blue, A/C, Lthv, 14K ....£33,495 95M 325 A Cpe Bright Red, ESA, Alloys, 27K ....£20,995 96P 323 A Coupe Bright Red, ESR, Ex-Demo ... POA 96P 320i A Tour Boston Green, ESR, Alloys...... POA 96N 320 ASE Calypso Red, ESR, Alloys, 10K .... £20,995 93K 320f A Coupe Brilliant Red, ESR, 19K ......£16,495 96P 318 TDS SE Arctic Silver, ESR, Ex-Demo . POA 95M 318i Convertible Dark Blue, Alloys, 14K ... £21,995 96N 318I SE Arctic Silver, ESR, Alloys, Fogs.....£18,495 96P 316I Bright Red, Air Con, Alarm, Ex-Demo. £ POA 95M 316i Alaska Blue, ESR, Alarm, 25K ......£13,995 

Over 45 Used Cars Available

Towkesbury Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire Telephone: 01242 578838

Open 7 days a week Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm

**AUDI** 



IVER, BUCKS Tel: 01753 650909 Fax: 01753 651019



ule Lid- Umis 45. Thesis idea on \$22 - States 700 mic roof box with Had BS21 GUH ASTON MARTIN ASTON MARTIN AUTHORISED WANTED **Loncoster** SEVENDAKS DB7 VOLANTE

01604 584826.

2.0E

CABRIOLET

95M, laser and, sports rader

217,495

Tel. 01708 451386.

alloys, black power bood.

DIST Course Anna Malvera Salver . . £P.O.A 96 DE7 Coupe Auto Brecon Black .. 172,950 DST Cours 5 Spend Pennine Grey . . . £64,950 87 V8 Vantage Ante Suffolk Red . . . £49,950 Contact David Bradshaw NOBILE 0468 920567 01732 456300 CITROEN

ALL Ford cars assarly new fix Scorpio to Piesta. Livrest pric 01546 652767/01733 3526 OISAS 68.706701733 282800

APPRODUMATELY 30 Scorpios in stock of any one time eg. Unitum 20 4 Door Auto, leacher, 9874, F16.300. Unitum 20 4 Door, N reg. leather, 8K Ma., C18,250. Unitum 20 12 ve 4 door sure, 975N leather, 150006s only, C16.500. Unitum 29 12 vestates grate, 975N, leather, 11K, 217.500. Executive, 20 evanue, von, 2000Mis, E14.500 Gain 20 4 Door, 975N, 5000 Mis. 212.500. Fhoms with any Ford requirements, 01850 550056 facility no. 01580 314440 FOUR WHEEL DRIVE

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE IFF CAll Lenguage. Reining by high spec 4 a 4 buyers, Ista Theoper, Schurn Legary Landstown Discovery Auto Required. Tel: 0468 166444 10YOTA Landerview, buying/ selling? Greevance Gamps, Largest UK selection 01483 234242 7 Days. Sed Hain Ad FOUR WHEEL

DRIVE WANTED was Group 01372 749090 Selly Res RONDA PRELUDE

0181 372 5795. JEEP CHEROKEE 2.5 TD Ltd. 96 N reg. Mose green / Sand leature, FIVIL 13,000 miles, Best offer secures.

No designa.

Tel:01647 433285

612,995.

GRAND Charakes Required. 1. caster 0831 791979 / 08 327808 JEEP AUTHORISED INTERGRALE

altr of programous cur. totally origanal spec, LHD, 92 J. FSH, £13,000, Tel:01480 880624.

LAND ROVER AUTHORISED DEALERS Loncoster

958 SWAY TOLES Was Blooking. HIT 1979 SMEY TO ICS Han Bho Gran, 107 J. 255, 1979 STEEL TO ICS HE PROMISE ROVIER HAN BE FOUNDED TO ICS HAN BE HAN BE FOUNDED TO ICS HAN BE HAN BE HAN BE HAN BE HAN BE HAN BE HOUSE HAN HOUSE HAN BE HAN BE HAN BE HORSON THE HAN BE HAN BE HAN BE HER HAN BE HAN BE HAN BE HAN BE HAN BE HAN BE HER HAN BE HAN BE

**NOW FOR SALE CALL FOR DETAILS** 0181 522 0023 0976 705693 LAND-ROYER rww.lancasterp.c.com.city tandroi

LAND ROVER ومروخدة

NEW 97 LANDROVER DISCOVERY'S U.K. SPEC. 3 Door & 5 Door Models 3, 6, 20 and EX Specials WHY PAY MORE! TEL 01703 47 02 08 FAX 01703 47 17 07 eSCOVERY big choice at easible prices. Land Rover Choice freephone GSOO 424 414

LEFT HAND DRIVE RAMD New '97 Seep Grand Cher-ckee 25 TD, Pull extres. Choice of colours. UK plates. 222,950. 01/1 3289645/0836/237374 CHMYSLER Grand Voyager SE New shape, 33th, auto, a/c, £17,995, 01543 414307. No. 100 54 Cabalda 7 Nos Risch/Stack July, 5 spd Specific nice seem 527,980 0171 3289648 /0836 227374

1800 Miniaculate condition, only 3,500 miles, T lady owner. 1996 reg. British Racing Breen, PAS. £18,495 onc. 01287 E39639. MGF VVC Brg , 96 reg N, hard top, wood Veneer, mat, mud-flaps, tog lamps, r.v.l., pressur ressum for sals. Offers Instinct. 01705 257 237 (a)/

MGF

01705 412430 (h). Street, Leods 0113 243 8091 NISSAN WANTED

# A British restoration classic

Behind the wheel of an impeccably rebuilt 1974 MGB. **Eve-Ann Prentice** 

urn back

found that the years rolled away and a lost age

when driving a car was fun returned



BORN to be wild wildish), the MGB GTV8 heads out on the highway looking for adventure. In pristine British

Racing Green with chrome which manages to glint even in the fogthreatening gloom of mid-Decem-ber Cotswolds, the 1974 MG was raring to go on one of its first outings since being totally rebuilt.
Pulling away from the Oxford-

shire offices of British Motor Heritage, which stripped back the years and made the car new once more during two days at the National Classic Motor Show in Birmingham last month, the gutsy engine growled like Eartha Kitt.

This weekend the energetic bornagain 22-year-old belongs to someone who paid just II for the privilege, after the car was raffled for charity by Heritage and Motorcare Services. Last week she was mine, all mine, for a few toofleeting miles and one deeply embarrassing hiccup for both of us.

Snuggling into the seat, and re-learning the venerable technology which makes you remember to flip the indicators off as well as on. I was peering round the steering-wheel to check that the headlamp light was on to announce our presence in the crepuscular halfight as we slowed to approach as

Nothing coming from the right, so a shift to second ready to pull away - and I have stalled, cutting off that lovely throaty engine in its prime. Then horror. Whisps of blue-black smoke curl from beneath the bonnet and an ominously acrid smell seeps into the car.



leader of the team which carried out the rebuild, did his best to look nonchalant and not scramble too

quickly from the passenger seat as he released the honnet catch. Dialling mission control from his mobile phone while simultaneously scouring the glistening engine compartment, a look of barely-disguised relief flooded his face and he aborted the call back to HQ.

A rogue wire had fallen on to the hot exhaust and melted, probably jolted out of place by the ignomini-ous stall, I silently conjectured.

From then on, the prospective drama turned out to be merely a momentary hitch. Driving the MGB GTV8 is like being given the elixir of youth, the years roll away and the fun of driving returns; none of this automatic gear-changing, electronically-controlled ease of today which robs you of the sense of really riding all those horse-power. The MGBs steering is exhibitantingly responsive, while the road-holding is reassuring. The whole package is like driving a

sophisticated grown-up's go-kart.
The MGB GTVS was the most powerful of the production MGBs and just 2,591 were built between April 1973 and June 1976, all of them for the British market. The one raffled on Monday was made in 1974 and is believed to have had just one owner. For the past six years she has slumbered in a garage, like Sleeping Beauty waiting for British Motor Heritage to act the Prince.

British Motor Heritage, owned by Rover, makes essential parts to keep classic cars on the road, including new bodyshells such as that used to rebuild the MGB £30,000, has raised up to £25,000 by being raffled in aid of the Marie Curie Cancer Fund. There were three of us working

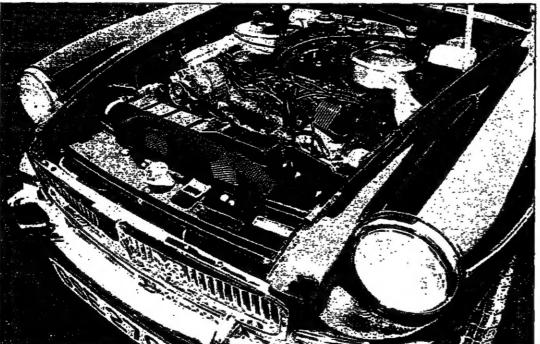
of Engine Machine Services at Worksop and the rear axle was reconstructed by Moss Europe in London, for instance.

Brian Cameron. Managing Director of British Motor Heritage at Witney in Oxfordshire, says he tries to "inculcate that we are not in the car industry, but in the leisure industry". Owning a classic car should be an enjoyable experience, he says. "It could be a boat or ponies for the children, instead we want people to see driving classic cars as a leisure activity."

British Motor Heritage is the commercial arm of the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust which also runs the Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon, Warwickshire, Britain's largest purpose-designed motor museum. The museum houses more than 200 vehicles as well as more than four million engineering drawings.



Prentice and the MGB GTV8 that lay like Sleeping Beauty for six years before the Prince arrived in the shape of British Motor Heritage: "The whole package is like driving a sophisticated grown-up's go-kart"



"That lovely throaty engine growled like Eartha Kitt — until I stalled and cut it off in its prime"

constant crowd watching," says James, "It took from 10.30 on the

Saturday until 3.30 on the Sun-day." British Motor Heritage

#### MGB GTV8

Engine: 3.5-litre V8 engine fuelled by twin SU carburettors to give 137bhp at 5,000rpm. Four-speed manual gearbox with overdrive. Performance: 0-60mph in 8.6 seconds, 0-100mph in 25.3 seconds. Top speed 124mph. Average fuel consumption 23.5mpg.

Price: £1,925 at launch in 1973 and £3,317 when discontinued in 1975. The pristine model, complete with indicators which must flipped off as well as on, totally rebuilt by British Motor Heritage, is valued at between £15,000 and £30,000.

GTV8 at the Birmingham show. The parts are produced using original tooling and to original specifications. Now the new-again MG, worth between £15,000 and

on the rebuild and there was a

groups classic car retailers and suppliers under an umbrella organisation, the Association of Heritage Approved Specialists, some of which helped in the V8's rebirth. Engine and gearbox were courtesy



An MGB from the early Sixties, when everybody wanted to own one

Mans, paving the way for the great era of British two-seater sports cars with the birth in the Sixties of the Abingdon in 1929, making way for MG Midget and the MGB. Things started to go wrong in the midthe flood of models to come.

1970s when British Leyland had no new engine to meet growing American anti-pollution laws and dollarsterling fluctuations made the cars ludicrously expensive in the US.

British Leyland, under Sir Michael Edwardes, pulled the plug on MG - but up to 100,000 MGs were thought to be on Britain's roads Vaughan Freeman meets the owner of an unstoppable MGB GT

## Even more miles to go

CLASSICS don't always need cos-seting: Richard Monk has covered at least 230,000

bought his beloved MGB GT second-hand two decades ago, proof, if any were needed, that the place for cars with heart is not the dusty death of a motor museum, but out on the open road. Richard drives his 1974 V8

engined MGB GT sports car every day as his commuter car. has holidayed with it in France. Germany and Spain, and also driven all over Britain in it for his job as assistant club secretary for the MG Owners' Club.

When he bought the car in 1975,

it was 18 months old and had already covered 17,000 miles. Now it has "gone round the clock" twice and shows no signs of slowing down. What is more, he says, of the 45,000 MG Owners' Club members he estimates around 30,000 use their cars, as he does, day in. day out. The car has had a couple of breakdowns, but nothing that

could not be fixed at the roadside. And costs are nothing like as prohibitive as might be thought. Fully comprehensive insurance cover, with maximum no-claims borrus, is £230 a year, and because the MG has always been such a popular car, parts are plentiful and reasonably priced. There is also the advantage that

such cars, if used as company cars, offer huge tax incentives since their personal tax in kind liability is based on their original purchase price. Additionally, depreciation on an MG is minimal. Most cars that are bought new lose a third of their value in the first year, at the rate of around £100 a week for an average family saloon. Prices for used MGs remain constant, and indeed the first examples of the latest Rover MGF which went on sale recently actually sold for more than when they first left the showroom.

Richard says: "My car is not in concours condition, but it is very presentable, and has done approximately 230,000 miles. It has proved very reliable. It has had the odd breakdown, which you would expect given the sorts of



Monk and his MGB GT: "Reliability was always pretty good"

mileages it has covered, but nothing irrecoverable. With a car such as this, if you break down at the side of the road you are far more likely to be able to fix it. because the design is so simple. With a modern car, you open the bonnet, and there is a whole load of electronics and computers staring back at you, and there is nothing you can do except shut the bonnet again."

DEPENDING on the time he has to spare. Richard works on the car himself, but the huge numbers of garages specialising in MGs

mean that getting it serviced professionally is easy and relatively inexpensive, even if services, around every 3,000 or 4,000 miles, are more frequent than on more modern vehicles.

Richard concedes that some classic cars can pose problems for the unwary buyer: "It's true that in some instances classic cars are held together with string and chewing gum." The trick he says is in buying a car which was. when new, a strong design, and

has been cared for since. "With the MG, the reliability do their own work and are fairly competent at it, but on top of that there is a fairly good network of parts outlets and repair shops.

"The MG is a particularly strong car, with a monocoque construction and strong chassis rails running the length of it. so that even if it doesn't have modern equipment like an airbag, I cer-

tainly feel safe driving one." Are such cars, though, built when working heaters were for wimps and cabins boasted all the draught-proofing of a wind-blasted barn, suitable for today's pampered drivers? Richard believes they are, and is not averse to a bit of pampering himself. He has had electric windows fitted to his MGB, and says: "We have got involved in developing all sorts of products to enhance the car's handling and suspension, as well

For example we have developed a high-efficiency lan for the MGB so that it pumps out more heat. You can get kits to improve the suspension and the handling. as well as electric window kits."

But what is the ultimate attrac-

as its comfort.

tion of an older car? Richard says: "I was first attracted to the car by its classic lines. I liked the look of it and the way it goes, and with factor was always pretty good. A the V8 engine it can keep up w most of today's modern cars." the V8 engine it can keep up with



ANGELA Rippon. Sting and Viscount Linley have had one love in common the MGB. They all owned models of the

quintessential British two-seater sports car which mirrored the new egalitarianism of the 1960s, writes Eve-Ann Prentice.

Everyone wanted one. Introduced at the 1962 motor show, it was the heir to 40 years of motoring success emanating from Mortis Garages. Yet just 18 years of life were left to the MG company.

The MG was the brainchild of Cecil Kimber - new general manager of the erstwhile staid Morris Garages — who captured the flapMGs swung with the Sixties and

remain sports cars of ultimate style

peresque spirit of the Twenties by converting a four-cylinder Morris Cowley into a two-seater and having it painted in pastel shades. In 1924, a converted Bulinose Morris was given the designation MG for the first time. The sports cars proved so profitable that MG moved into a new factory at

In 1932, the J2 Midget cost 50p less than £200, while the first of the T-series in 1936 set a readily identifiable MG style and cost just £222. After the war, the 1955 MGA made a powerful impact at Le

when Rover launched the MG RVS

SU, 2005E Peak blue, you hide, at car, st. 15% SUEN Sins, then hide, es, ct. ii tole albys... 52. SUSSE Manic, you hide, it holes, hit, with...

EL SECATE WAR

We pay top prices for your quality used Porsche.

REGISTRATION NO'S.

CNDA MEMBERS

5

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

THE ZHEH SHEET SHE

Please call lan Clark on 0831 344705.

01992 514444

The largest retailer of Mercedes-Benz in the U.K.

PORSCHE

96N 911 Targa kisa 96N 911 Targa Turk 93K 911 C4 Guards

RANGE ROVER

DSE

Jan 1997, defivery mileage only, auto, Rioja Red, creem leather, art,

£40,000. No offers

Tel: 01543 373585.

2.5 DT

New shape 95M. Niagora, s Toof, straps.

£26,000

01233 502366

0585 252001.

**VOGUE SE** 

Marc.

REGISTRATION

NUMBERS

For the best deal call:

OFFICIAL CENTRES

MERCEDES AUTHORISED DEALERS 96P C180 Classic Auto est. 45 ... 01473 232232 MERCEDES C220 Sport **400SEL** imousine (\$420L.WB) March 97 mole silver, Brazil brown leathe upholstery. I owner, 33,000 miles, FMGSH, air con, power windows, power doors, glass SR, cruise constot, electric seals stence CD, alloy wheels, many extrus, immaculase, £32,750. metallic silver, L reg, 18K miles, 10 CD, sun roof, im garaged, FMBSH, £20,500. Tel:0182 906 1881. Tel. 0171 9167197. 230E NEW Auro. 89G. Willow Green Mercedes Benz Trend e/sr, e/w x4, rhr, otc. Available January 1997. FMBSH, 46,000 miles. Details £12,250ano, Immac cond. 01495 762646 01275 853346. 500SL SLK anto. Nov 91, pearl blue, blue at top, all leather cream interior. every possible extra. sports stabilities. Il bole alloy wheels, ainton, heused front/ear scats. The ultimate christmas present, delivery Jan'97. Please Reply to Tel: 0171 488 0955 (eve Box No 2171 or 0171 772 4628 (day). 230 Kompressor 300SL black leather. CONVERTIBLE air con, 1987, 50k, FSFI, finished in moke Silver, burgundy interio T & T July 97, absolutely min immediate delivery, Fireing c £19,960. £50,000. Contact: Tel: 9171 354 8177 (o) 0831 481300. **E220 AUTO** C180 ESPRIT 94., black met, esyt, elec windows, alloys, alectn, sir eg. PAIDSH, Blacquelit stores. 29,000 miles. Manual, 96N, 16k, in Lapis Blue, FSH, alloys esr, OTG. £17,250. £17,800. 01159 286328 01564 782546. 190E 2.6 280 CE nual 1890 G, Artic Blue Pillades coupe. Mot Steam 65K arls, PSH, MOT Aug 97 with creem leather, 63k, elec at 8, art, alloys, immsc, FSH. Excellent Condition. £4,750. 0121 705 0287 01276 677721. 0973 749538 180 Elegence, "VSM, Blue / Grey, ESR, EW, EHR, E/c, Raissen, PSE, 1 owner, 221 C16,976, 01217666649/03704776901 **JAGUAR & DAIMLER** AUTHORISED DEALERS READING

220 Hisganos, Bossel New, Fligh Spec Immed Dalivery VAT qual-Hying, Tei/Par: 01869 864951 SO Setate Auto M/95, White LONDON

**Lancaster** Son AD PALPOPERST, 192. DBS-C.
Son AD WILLIAMPSON, C. J.
THE TOTAL SECTION OF THE TOTAL SECTI Tel: 01732 456300 Out of hours: 0589 990722 **WE'LL TAKE YOU FURTHER ...** 

LANCASTER JAGUAR AND AIR MILES AIR MILES and the flying boat logo are trademarks of AIR MILES International Holdling N.

CONY.

**V12** 

Free, 55k mils, FJSH, black with

£10,500.

01222 747956 (Cardill

**JAGUAR & DAIMLER** XK8

CONV 18" wheels, 1,000 mis. Best offers. Fax: 01273 495151 Tel: 01273 494714.

3.2 SPORT **AUTO** 96, Blue/ Magnella Mr. a/c., 4,000 miles. £29,995ono. 01628 487487.

2 XK8 CONVERTIBLES Carnival Red/Classic tries. Delivery miles only. Last + 2k

XJS 4.0 CONV Celebration Blue, 95N, only 4,900 miles. £37,850. Tel: 0161 904 8424/ or 0161 980 4537.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER SOV 4.0 WANTED 96N, LWB, Met Grey, 5h nls, Sanjr, CD, 1 ocner. 71272 740000 Male Valley are THE Japane Boyens. Collect Nationwide. 0821 406172 with £39,200 ono. 0181 2018744. es of low F-N jaguars lale Mtr 01344 20072

0181 983 4444 01708 861321 PORSCHE E 200 911 Carrera 4 Coupe, 95th, Arena Reofflick leather, air con, 17m; stoys, lowand Sugarnison, sports stoks, that CD pieper, 3rd break light, but alem, 5k mises, company chairmann second car. 127, 500 no otloss. Tat. 01842 275555 southlyst or 01642 570290 over whench New shape, May 1996 22,000 miles, ma Actallic tournaline with grey cloth + ESR, alleys, radio casette, airhogs, warranty. £23,000 opg. Tel: 01554 757933 (H or 01269 832300 (O)

300SL 911 CARRERA 2 CAB. eb 89. White, Immacu blue ithe roof, 11k 990, PSH, where, black lear inc. Peracha alerm & irrenob, CD, 20k mis. mis, 2 owners, garaged, alarm. CA.995 one £36,500 (d) 01372 466109/ (e) 01403 263458. Tel: 01883 722143/ 0385 308578.

500SL

92K, Ahmandine, cream httr, 30k mls, air con, alloy whis, active hift

system,

250,000

0171 328 3908.

**S280** 

curic seass, les

432,950

0831 686672

MERCEDES WANTED

60 308333, 0831 344705

1967 1995 President prices poid for all Mescodes. Glern Wil-llasse 01272 749090.T

CLASE all new models pur-chased today, Lancaster 0860 308233 / 0621 344705

(ANTED Wasted, All Mercedes any miles / condition, 01896 825446 / 0831 123911, now 1

Light, 17,000 cash, ROAL Januares Bowl0181 98 4444, I

Lesther, Third Booke Light J,000 codes, P.O.A. Lamoural Book078; 983 4444.:

NA CARRERA 45 COUPE 96N Ida Bloodhladi

CARRETTA 4 COUPE

N Paler Sulvers

Chy Leather, Air

17 Albrys. 10 S

16-Fi. Sports Seats, L

15SP, 3400 miles.

Leacoster (L-000181 95)

XJS V12

CABRIOLET

1986. Sebring red/black, FSH low milesge, VGC, rece sees

£13,500 neg. Tel: 01243 602922 or

XK8 COUPE

Camivat Red/ Oatmeal.

1,000 mis.

Offers around

£53,500.

0181 486 1521(Q).

600 Lime Begd, Lancouster 0: 308383 / 0631 344705

PORSCHE

1995, 18000 mls. 1 o

gray metallic, 6 hole at headlamp wash, sunn

911 C2 90G. Guards Red, full libr, a/c, FPSH, Multi CD, spts ste/ exhat, teerdrop \$26,500. Tel: 0976 929350.

**CARRERA 2** lag 94, 21k, VGC, FPSH, iris blue, CD, 17" cap alloys. £30,000 0171 499 1199 PORSCHE WANTED

C4 S/Turbo 4/RS Required. Lan caster 0821 344705 / 0864 308383 ST Call Lancester! Definite: Britishe best Possible buyer 0631 244706, 0660 306333 VANTED Wanted. All Foreche aby Miles / condition. 0189: 835446/0831 123911 now. TVR WANTED WANTED All low mileage TVI's Promos comment Charles System Mole Valley, 0181 394 1114.

TOYOTA SEAPEST Toyotas possible. The Toyota Shop really do try barder 01520 722536 anytime 94M, Antonous Erneri yany linc, 95 madel, 194, 1° kischol, PSH, als, CD, many selesa, bad of Vity 9225,000. VAUXHALL Tel: 0831 697 859

OMEGA Est, 2.0GLS, 95M, Vauchal moranty, FVSH, PAS, auto on red, electric susmoot, ro als, row ball, superb, reluciant sale. £12.450. Middlesbrough 01642 825899.

RESEARCH NIGEL X PES 51 PCS 452 POR I PPP 328 RES 895 8 UPF VCX 39 VER 558 WJN 911 XVI, III ABA 817 835 ALX 633 BJH 184 CHR 440 DEL EGO 29 ESB 74 GA 7 MIB 911 MIB NSA MIBLKS Super Chargers 01257 482305

from... à Lancaster M3 MAX Serious offers over £2500. Please call 0350 948329

CLA 1R JAGUAR £17,500ono. L = Landon R = Reading APPROVED Tel: 01322 273108 JAGUAR & DAIMLER WANTED

**GEN 123** IX are leading authorwide buy-ers of Jeguara. One call reaches six dealerships. Call The Boyd 0636 222830: 0161 224 2205 Offers over £4,000. NISSAN 01689 850682.

200SX Turbo, '95, 27k, FSH, a/c. ithr, alloys, met red. £1,299 Offers. 216,750. 0171 799 1884 01372731303 01204 389520.

SKYLINE GTR C1 ANS 92J, met Navy, middlehurst 440 bhp upgrade, AP brakas, 17in dymag wheels, CO. \$26,750. Tel:0141 639 8960.

£4,850 01228 45967 0860 730273

B16 ADD

On retention.

TDH N2 ALN Best offer Over £900. £1,500. Ready for transfer. On retention 0171 323 0540. T-L 0121 323 3735

DK REGISTRATIONS
Sadbury (01787) 312222

Premier Plates

Te/Fex 01365 38873
MNW 3020 - 210
X00 2084 ~ 275
X16 89 - 230
VLJ 970 - 250
ASZ 273 - 250
ASZ 273 - 389
EU 1922 - 146
FIW 408 - 248
FX 5573 - 140
CUL 2220 - 259
GW 4890 - 160
HJ 6610 - 159
HJ 1665 - 320
BE 256 - 296

Cloeraghan, Ballinnellerd, Co. Ferminagh 8194 2.IN Tel/Fex 91305 301792

LI JCY Xmus present for Lucy. Offers over £5,000. Tel:

ليهار والأناء والمستعمل الوالدأني والمستوفي أأوأ المرعوا وماعا فالم

01225 835818

**DS 4618** £2,000 ono. Tel: 0121 444 1418.

ALZ 1529 — 99 MEL 1953 — 375 MEL 0931 — 80

01273 400414

REGISTRATION NUMBERS

> 1 VET Peugeot 205TD (L'reg). £30,000\_ 0636 332257

1 MMH £12,500ono. 0181 455077 0171 6007000

A1 VOR Offers invited

01792 201603.

1 WPG

£4,500

01494 432157

P8 JAG

£1,000 oiro.

01273 890870.

**EVE 509** 

£1,850.

On retention.

Tel:

01202 767267

JMB 1

On retention, Offers

in excess of £20K.

Tel:01442 832481.

REGISTRATION

NUMBERS WANTED

ANY NUMBER CONSIDERED.

Tel: 01382 225517

or 0836 759845

PRIVATE BUYER.

SAAB AUTHORISED

large malention of 96N Regis tuned Sant Models including Convertibles at large saving Prosphone Kentish Sant for full Stock List 0800 513900

MAR ON THE DITERM

**CERBERA 4.2** 

Starmet Blue, Biscuit interior, helf hide, air

conditioning, multi-change CD, 3000 miles from in & ready to got

Tel: 0468 737248

CERBERA

JULY 96N

5k miles, air con, CD, earl green, tracker, half leather, ice detector,

PAS. offers.

Tel. 0385 379570

DEALERS

4 E LW 21 £10,000. £15,000. TEL: 0181 Tel: 0151 227 4244 9505294 (wk).

M10 ADS One for Dads £950 ono Tel 01772 769394 or 0850 877825

ANY COM Sport Chairs of 3 bit spots, and air sons, and, man ...... 128,995

0114 2753391

REGISTRATION

NUMBERS

869 5500 Livo 6 kgle, parkerne, varu, st 850 5500 kb, 1 kgl valuge, de, climate 900 5000 met, kiele, dreet, etc. strag, et 800 5000 met, kiele, dreet, etc. de, along, et 900 5000 met, kiele, disente, ibr, etc. 900 5000 5000 feel dreet offensen, 2 m peter

967 B120 mart, histo, etc., etc.pa, lets, cal etc.i..... 944. SE 200 mart, histo, etc.aut. 8 heles, etc........

K3 SLK Re-edvertised due to mewaster. Offers of over \$2,000 M15 AXO Of Over £1,500 Tel. 01494 721000

94L 911 Cpe Ms Blon, Ak, 17" .27T

BOL BIT C2 Cab Catal Air ... 37

911 911 (2 Tga Black ...... 37

OPEN SUNDAY UNITEL SPM

0181 983 4444 0850 968911

EPH.

938 958 CS Mari

FILL

THEIR

STOCKING

SOMETHING

DIFFERENT

THIS XMAS!

Surprise your loved one

WE WILL DO THE REST!

EG: BIS STITE THE BIN

35.14C 10.0 で 10.0 で

HILLS OF THE SERVICE OF THE SERVICE

Prices From £145

this Christmas with a

personalised number plate.

The Christman gift to last a lifetime and an excellent investment tool Choose as 'K', 'B', ', 'I', 'K', 'I', 'M', 'N' or 'P' prefix number between 1 and 20 (also selected higher

For the perfect finishing touch, we will even gift-wrap the number plates for you - ready to put under the tree.

Tel: 0121 353 3333

midland

WITH

M1 KEF on retention £5000 ono. TEL. 0410 307232/ 0171 3813649

**60** 5 HM 533 21650am £1400um H1 DOS £1250 HI CAD 0191 3840094(ave/m.com 0191 4166408(office) 9802 244454 (a/thee)

**J15 OHN** On retention. Tel: 01509 416674

ROE 1 on retention. Offers over £50,000. FAX:

01651 891699 9 *BOX* TVR

Offers in excess of 6,000. 0118 9772798

> ARO 5S OIRO £5800. Please contact: Mr Ross

01582 459695

P77 TVR On retention cert. £995. 01908 271723 or

P8 DOC £2,100ono only. Low price for quick sale Tel. 0171 624 6357

01908 678033

N11 GLL N1 GEL recently sold for £76,500inc omens. Best offer over £3,500.

Tel. 01833 631376

£5,250 Tel.

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY AUTHORISED DEALERS

Hooper Alpe 50 Marylebone, High Street TURBO R 91 TURBO R 860

Royal Bluehlingsofie, 47,000 miles, Sturring ... £25,960 TURRO R RE-Ricing Green/Flori, Superb Condition, 83,000 railes .... £23,500 BENTILEY MILLSANNE 82 letrocal Gn/Tao, only 78,000 mis Tel: 0171 935 1124

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENILEY

CONTINENTAL MULLINER S1 (Test back). 2 mda rigid body, 2 door saloon, 1958 Rag TFH 3, Yador gray. Many unusual features including manual gear best (only 3 made), ir Condidening, Power scening Screene colonya coly 67,000. Recently completely repo One of the most bear Bendeys ever made. Best offer around £90,000. Tet 6171 493 1336 (office) Face 0171 629 2644.

SILVER SPUR '97, 2 tone Blue, FSH, 2 wners, esc condition, £26,500. 01258 857327.

WANTED SHADOW II/ CORNICHE by pvt RREC member. Must be excellent with PSH. 01273 501683

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED

BOLL/TE legenest buyets o Bolle Royce & Bentley's Suzningdale liftr 01344 2007 (ANTÉD Wanted, Rolle & Bur Models, Any utiles/tond, 01 835446 er 0831 123911 ROLLS-ROYCE &

BENTLEY ### SPERT 86(C) lowner PSH White superb throw £19,995. 01376 324394.

VOLVO GGCD Recense-EPSk\_EPIk; 940 GLE EIS.7k, all mint 96N, pr. 4 tocilities, PWC, 01494 672722

9,000 Kms. 20,10v,LRD,96x, 9,000 Kms. 2007 extras 217,995. Tel: 01543 414307. MA. 15 what cans from El6k-225td Pr etc. Philip Whitaher STield, 01494 672727 now

T5R N Reg, Limited Edition in Olive, all extras, FSH, 30K mls, £22,950. 01442 251790 W.

VOLKSWAGEN

**GOLF** Avantgarde cabriolet, metallic violet, 1994, 43,600 miles, 1 owner, beated scats, air bags. £12,300. Tel: 01256 767011(o)

**GOLF** 1.8GL, 93L, anto, a/c, 31k mls, FSH, exc cond, met grey.

£8,758om 01737 832663 GOLF

BEL. VRM Ser Ajam Walls 20t 274425 9481 VRM Ser (Ingen Ge 20t 276425 9514 GTI Ser Bragon Ge 15t 225265 969 GTI Ser Ser Anaborousy shoof at 60 Block Mat LM Feb. EPOA CORRADO SEL VRI 2.5 Det 8th 48: \_C164 EST 2.5 No Det 6th shoot 18: 5144 CABRIOLET Listers

01789 294477

Volkswagen Dovercourt.

BATTERSEA 990 FOLD 1 4 St. 5 Date: Compilition, LIBN sales, Cope Africanción, Marys 92. Cost (1984), Mancion Pate, 17 LBP sales, Alaps, Salessi, Control Lacion

The COLD PROPERTY STORM, Alex Special Study, Section (April Special Sp THE CALL HAVE & COME AND THE PROPERTY SERVICE CONTRACT OF THE CALL HAVE A COME AND THE CALL HAVE AND THE CAL

ST. JCHNS WOOD 90 CLFGR3800 1200 Gev. 1900 Gev. 190 

BIN BASSAT 24 PERMEMBER DRING FOR ALL PROFITS AND AND THE ARREST 

Dovercour-

VEICLUSIVE CON

CARMART YOUR

14

7.6

1 24

H. 4.

4116

S<sub>1</sub>

64

4

在开西南京 一篇五字艺



Safely in the lap of luxury

drivers. But the updated 960

range shows that when the

Swedish manufacturer turns

its mind to making you cosy

and comfortable as well as

safe it does so with the same

The 960 is one of those

models which bears the heavy

burden of being known as a

"flagship" - somehow expect-

ed to incorporate all the vir-

tues of a marque and then

offer something extra. What it

offers, in anything but its most

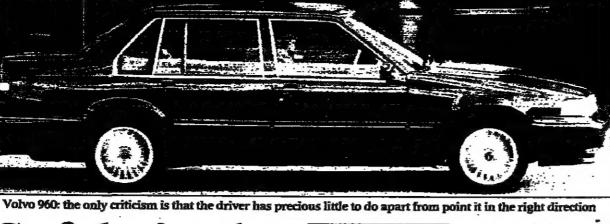
basic form, is an interior

reeking of leather and walnut,

THINK of a Volve and what springs to mind? Not long ago the immediate image was of a big, heavy car bristling with safety features a speed guaranteed to ensure that none of them would ever be needed, writes Alan Copps. But the company has revamped its image more radically than most. The middleaged tank has been replaced and a dash of sporting style has been mixed with that re-

ticality and legendary safety. Unashamed luxury, however, is not likely to figure very high on the list of most Volvo

putation for robustness, prac-



VOLVO 960 CD

Engine 24-valve, three-litre, six-cylinder producing 204bhp at 6,000rpm.

Transmission: Fourspeed automatic with settings for sport, for maximum performance; economy, for fuel efficiency; and winter, to minimise wheelslip.

Performance: Max speed 130mph; 0-62 mph in 9.1 seconds. Price: £28,365.

seats you sink into and almost everything you can think of operated electrically - climate control, driver's seat adjustment, sunroof, windows and mirrors. All models have antilock brakes, driver's airbag, side airbags and five threepoint seatbelts. Volvo has gone to a lot of trouble transferring the tech-nology which has livened up its 850 range so successfully to the heavier 900-series. Aluminium and light alloys have been used extensively and the result is a stiffer and more responsive chassis without the

The three-litre six-cylinder engine pulls the whole package along smoothly and surprisingly quickly, getting from 0-62mph in 9.2 seconds. While the automatic transmission with sport, economy and winter modes is one of the most versatile on the market. It is a perfectly packaged up-market saloon and it more or less

roll so often associated with

limousine-size cars.

drives itself. That is possibly the one criticism that can be offered of this "flagship". After all the effort that Volvo has put into its new image as a "driver's car", the 960 leaves a driver precious little to do apart from point it in the right direction.

### FORECOURT

PLEASING looks, perky performance and design ahead of its time, the Nissan Micra (93K to 96N) is a big hit with used car buyers, reports CAP Black Book, Matched to its eminently useful mini-size. is the Nissan's well-founded reputation for quality and refinement. Also cheap to run and maintain, Micra represents excellent second-hand value. Buy of the week is the average mileage 1.0L three-door Micra, likely to be priced at around £5,000. The automatic version is highly regarded and always in short supply, a situation which usually sees the autos de-manding, and getting, a £500 premium over equivalent manuals.

The Micra topped its rivals by heading the supermini category of the 1996 Top Gear/JD Power survey of owner satisfaction and reliability. Best to avoid the L3litre SLX since lower specified models represent better value.

AT THE other end of the scale, the Mitsubishi Space Wagon stakes a claim as a cheap, seven-seater heavy-weight. The Space Wagon shares the toughness of its Mitsubishi Shogun offroading cousin but suffers from lack of reputation. Well built, accommodating, and slow depreciating, best buy is any diesel model, or the 1.8litre GLX petrol, with a typical

SAFETY RATING
Bumpers like building
girders tend to make
mincemeat of the
softly curved bodywork
and fancy plastic mouldings most
cass carry. The in-built strength
and four-wheel-drive grip makes
the car inherently safe, though
inside there are lots of worrying
sharp edges and no airbag.

THE SECTION DO



7.7

POLICE RANDOM

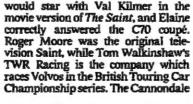
STAND well back on the school run

because that tame-looking dieselpowered "rattle and roller" could be a monster. Volkswagen this week unveiled a Golf racer (right), astonishing-ly, powered by diesel. Using the same kind of power pack which mums and dads use everyday in their hatchbacks, this racing version pulls 170 brake horse power.

Turbo-charging and fuel injection modifications, with a new catalytic converter system, cut down on smoke while uprating means the diesel is only will app four horse power lighter than the carrier.



famed VR6 petrol engine. Fuel economy is said to be better than the standard production Hobbp engine, which powers the current Passat and will appear soon in the Sharan people



presents of all this year goes to Elaine Pritchard, who lives in Edinburgh and

has won our Volvo Cannondale V3000

mountain bike. We asked which model

#### ■ TOO heavy for the top of the is also a winner and worth £3,500, Christmas tree but one of the the best which makes it a gift-wrapped, twowheeler to dream about. ■ AND lots of good news for two-

example being a 1995M with

average miles, costing £12,995.

wheelers: motorcycle injury accidents have dropped 61 per cent since 1981 - a bigger cut than for any other form of transport. However, other vehicles were found to be the cause of the accident in seven out of ten cases in which a two-wheeler was involved. Fatal motorcycle accidents are down 56 per cent, while serious injuries are down 67 per cent. Apparently, eight out of ten motorcyclists also own a car, raising the awareness of the needs of two-wheeled road users.



LAND ROVER

When Land Rover launched its first vehicle in 1948, doors were an optional extra. The Series III, faunched in 1972 and discontinued in 1984, carried on that same no-frills tradition. Hugely strong, this is the cer that features on most lelevision documentaries where deceded wildlifers motor into unknown lands. The Range Rover and Discovery are effets and degenerate softies by comparison. Cuboid, boxy and uncomfortable, if the Series III cannot get over it, it will go through it.

BAD NEWS
Compared to
Compared to
modern cars, the
Series III comes
from another world
of prehistorically unrefined
motoring. Motorway journeys
are hideously noisy and slow,
the ride is chesticingly firm. A
stot for a radio was the car's
concession to creature. are pienty to choose from.

Available in short (50-inch) and long (110-inch) wheelbase for versatility and as a pick-up, saven and 12-seat station wagon (though passengers need to be hardy), with 2.3, 2.6 and 3.5-litre V8 petrol,

LOOK FOR LOOK FOR
County versions from
1982 have improved
comfort, nim, reclining
front seats and
soundproofing. Cers with power
steering and the post-79 car with
3.5-litrs v6 engine also make good
buys. Check it has been nagularly
resprayed and cleaned to hold off
cheesis rot. An old good 'un
fetches more than a poor young
'un. Condition is more important
than age and mileage. Models with rust in the engine buildhead and along the door tops. Sits can also be prone to rot and check rear crossmember especially carefully. Check for successive play in the strength and the worm play in the steering and for worn tyres, which are costly. Gearbox white is normal but perticularly noisy transmissions can mean bills shead.

than age and milespe.

REPLACEMENT PARTS (prices include VAT); clutch assembly £285; full exhaust £380; front shock absorber £45; front brakepade (peir) £60; alternator £185 (exchange); starter motor £185 (exchange); fyre £85-965.

INSURANCE
Cover from AA
Insurance (0800
444777) on a V8 1879
Series III costs a
Series III costs a
Insurance (1800)
Series III costs a
Insurance (1800)
Insuran model in need of some constitution and mechanical attention, and \$800 for a car that is running but which needs extensive work.

Despite its age, the styling of of Land Rovers never detes to the Series if her messive street cred. It is tough and durable but its main attraction lies in the fact that this is a car that is superbly equipped and depable of doing the job for which it was designed: going off-road. A classic, and it has the spare wheel on the bonnet.

#### AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

# Win El7,200 Toyota Picnic FHV

The Times offers regarders the chance to win every family's dream car - the new levels Frence Family Fun Vehicle which will be going on sale in the LIK for the last time in January. The six-seater vehicle has

been designed with the aim of making travelling with children a happy and coming a secretare for

everyone in the ear. While working on the text cars developments covers conservations. a report by a leading

For your charter to war the Topeta Prent: collect four differently numbered takens from the seven which have appeared in The Topes since Saturday. Desember 14 Token Seven appears right Send them with the completed entry form to. The Times Copota

Piene Competition, Ashentree Court, Landon ECX SNG: The closing date is first post Friday January 17 1997. If you missed any tokens, you can get up to two by sending a SAE, before January 6, to: The Times Toyota Taken Request, PO Box 490, London El 9DW.

psychologist, to investigate the psychology of family travel. The report identified that although it may not seem impossible to change children's behaviour on long car journeys, there are certain fundamentals that ensure more peaceful family travel.

The Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle has a list of impressive features including six individual seats, all with 3-point seat

> belts, giving children their own space to minimise the risk of irritation. Safety features include dual air bags and side impact beams. There are a total of 17 different seat combinations and a power outlet in the rear — essential for the kids' personal stereo on that long car journey. For your chance to win this superb vehicle, collect four tokens from

The Times and complete the entry form below.

THE TIMES/TOYOTA CO	OMPETITION ENTRY
ttach four differently numbered Toyota Picnic tens from The Times, answer the question or and complete the tie-break.	Tie-break: please state in no r you would like to win the Toyo
re the four missing words in this slogan?	

Post this form to: The Times/Toyota Competition, Ashentree Court

\_\_\_\_1) 1524 \_\_\_\_2) 2534 \_\_\_3) 2544 \_\_\_4) 4564 \_\_\_3) 5564 \_\_\_6) 65

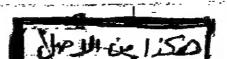
nore than 12 words why

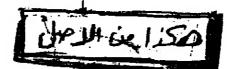
THE SEATIMES

Thich national Sunday newspaper(s) do ou buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)

TOYOTA picnic TOKEN

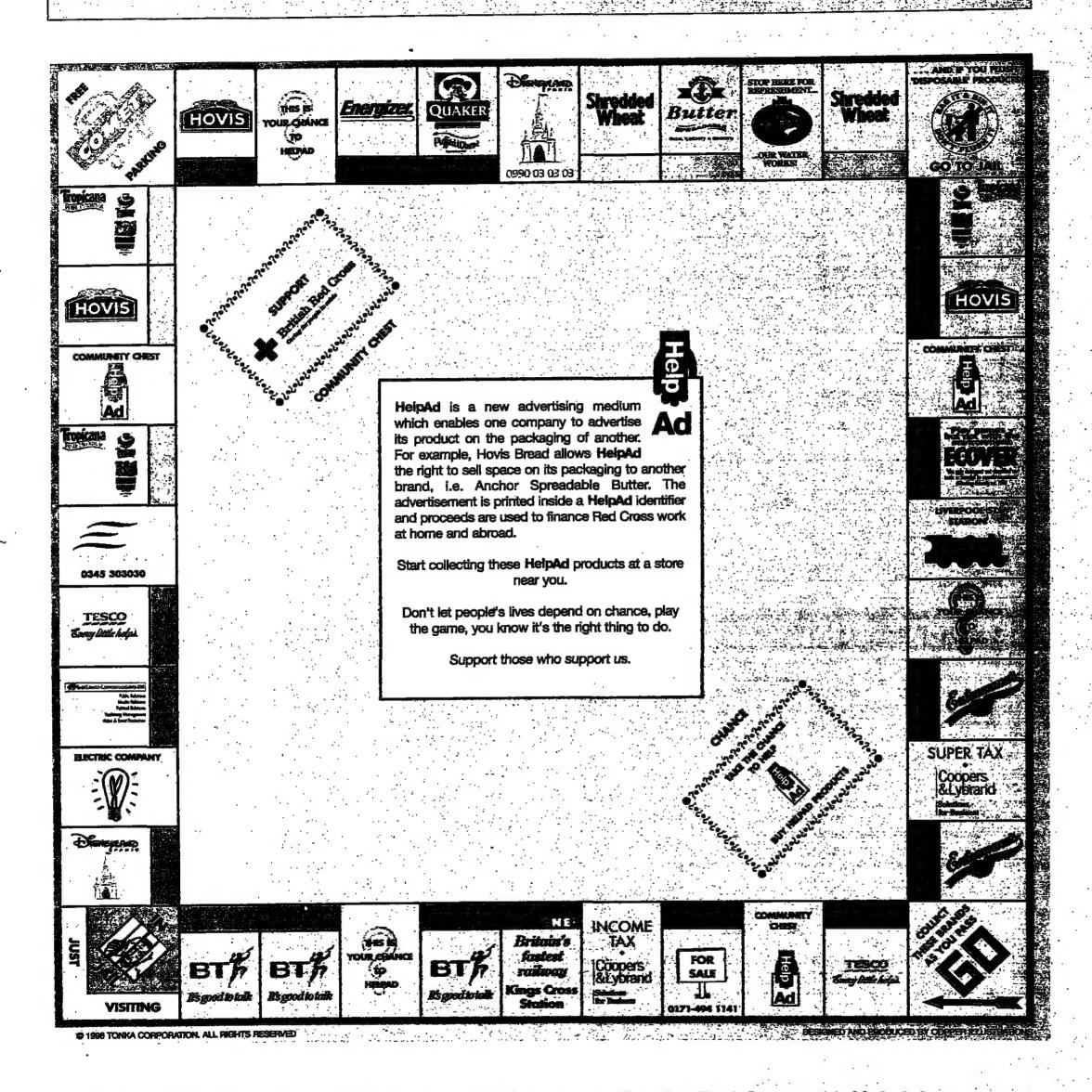
**CHANGING TIMES** 





# HelpAd

# BRANDOPOLY



These participating companies are committed to supporting the Red Cross with **HelpAd** over the next 12 months.

We should like to thank them for their courage in using this new advertising medium and of course consumers for buying **HelpAd** products.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a peaceful Holiday and a happy and prosperous New Year.



For further information please contact HelpAd on 0171-494 1141

HelpAd would like to thank Waddingtons for their kind permission to produce this advertisement

